

THE SCOPE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S EXODUS

Thousands of predominantly white, young, skilled South Africans of all persuasions, regions and professions are leaving the country each year to settle mainly in Australia, New Zealand, Britain, the USA and Canada. Official statistics suggest that just over 8 200 people had emigrated from South Africa in 1998 and about 9 000 in 1999, but because of an under-reporting of between one half and two thirds the unofficial total would have been between 16 000 and 25 000. These latest emigrants joined the 550 000 emigrants who have left officially since 1945, in addition to the 500 000 to one million emigrants who may have left the country unofficially during this period.

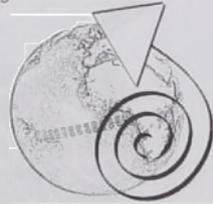
The real significance of this exodus can be found not so much in the sheer size of the exodus – even though it is large by any standard – but in the fact that these emigrants represent a huge loss of human capital: they are mostly professionals and their skills and ability to create wealth and jobs cannot be replaced overnight, if at all. In addition, emigration on this scale raises the questions of how many more people may join this new Trek, and whether this emigration will continue at current levels or whether a sudden mass exodus might become a possibility.

2.1 OFFICIAL STATISTICS VS THE ACTUAL NUMBERS: THE 2:1 AND 3:1 RATIOS

As mentioned earlier, the number of people leaving South Africa each year is at least double and could be triple the official numbers provided by Statistics South Africa. This is because many people who leave the country do so on the pretext of temporary visits and do not state on their departure forms that they are emigrating – therefore they will not appear in the official emigration statistics. The result is the huge discrepancy between official or self-declared emigrants and unofficial emigrant numbers (the undocumented migrants). Even the South African authorities are aware of this phenomenon, but are powerless to do anything about it, according to Mark Orkin, chief of Statistics South Africa.¹

The discrepancies between official and unofficial statistics (the latter obtained from the embassies and immigration departments of several countries) are glaringly obvious:

- Official South African figures claim that 29 000 South Africans had settled in the UK between 1984 and 1993, compared to a figure of 100 000 claimed by British sources.² Assuming that the British numbers are the correct version, the number of emigrants who arrived in the UK was three times that of South African sources. For the period of 1994–1997, 8 874 South Africans entered the UK as immigrants although South African official sources counted only 4 654 – almost double.³
- Australian authorities claim that 9 092 South African emigrants entered the country between 1994 and 1997, as opposed to Statistics South Africa's estimate of 5 514 – almost double.
- In Canada the discrepancy is even greater: a total of 3 261 emigrants were processed by the Canadian embassy in Pretoria between 1994 and 1997, compared to the 1 288 claimed by official South African sources – almost three times as many.
- USA sources claim that 5 721 South African emigrants entered the country between 1994 and 1997, as opposed to official South African statistics of 3 267.
- The discrepancy between official and unofficial numbers is even higher for professional emigrants and those in the economically active category. For the year 1996 Statistics South Africa claimed that 3 168 such emigrants left South Africa, but foreign diplomatic estimates were 15 000, five times as many.⁴
- A study by UCT's Development Policy Research Unit found that the actual number of emigrants between 1989 and 1997 was 233 609, compared to the official number of 82 811 – three times as many.⁵



A 1999 study on emigration by Fourie and Joubert produced similar evidence of an underestimation of between three and four times, which they refer to as the 'multiplication factor'. Their study suggests that the New Zealand authorities counted 3,3 times as many South African emigrants arriving in New Zealand between mid-1995 and mid-1996 as official South African statistics (1 123 vs 3 712). Similarly, Canadian statistics indicated that 3,7 times as many South African emigrants arrived from South Africa as Statistics South Africa had recorded for the period mid-1994 to mid-1995 (947 vs 3 500). Australian statistics also indicate that three times the number of South African emigrants arrived that Statistics South Africa had recorded for the period mid-1997 to mid-1998 (1 405 vs 4 281).⁶

These statistics clearly indicate that the discrepancies are not a once-off abnormality and follow the same pattern in several countries. They provide irrefutable evidence that the scale of emigration is at least twice as great and probably three times greater than official South African government sources claim. The huge underestimation is



not the result of a secret government conspiracy to hide the true extent of the problem, but of the way information is gathered at international departure points. A departing passenger has to fill out a form indicating his or her reason for travel as business, holiday, diplomatic or emigration. When an emigrant chooses the last option, he or she will be required to have the necessary paperwork which will verify that the government has given its stamp of approval, that tax clearance has been received, plus a multitude of other smaller inconveniences. Many emigrants prefer not to go through the bureaucratic red tape and choose not to alert the authorities about their status, in case they want to come back later. Because they are not emigrating formally, this also provides a psychological anchor for the thousands of emigrants who are not totally sure about their decision to leave the country and do not wish cut loose their lifeboats by formally emigrating.

The price of leaving South Africa as a tourist instead of an emigrant is that these unofficial emigrants are not able to take out their furniture and household effects or their emigration allowance, which nowadays can amount to close to R1million. However, because of Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's generosity, most of them can now take a travel allowance of close to R500 000 (per family of two adults and two children over 12). For most average families that covers about all the money they may possess anyway, and many younger people would not even own that much, making the emigration allowance irrelevant.

2.2 HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE LEFT SO FAR?

A good starting point for calculating the number of people who have emigrated is to find the total number of *official* emigrants that left the country in the post-World War II era by relying on Statistics South Africa, and then multiplying this by two or three.

The numbers in table 2.1 cover the 55-year period between 1945 and 1999 and add up to 545 642 emigrants. As they stand, they are dwarfed by the official numbers of immigrants during the same period, amounting to 1,2 million. However, by applying the 'multiplication factor' or the 2:1 and 3:1 ratios, it can be safely assumed that about two or three times as many people have left South Africa in total. Assuming that for every person who emigrates officially, another one or two leave unofficially, the total emigration figure for the post-war period could be 1,1 million or even as high as 1,6 million.

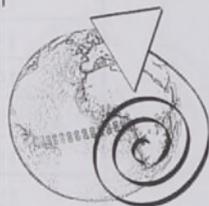


Table 2.1 Official emigration statistics⁷

1945	4 881	1973	6 401
1946	9 095	1974	7 428
1947	8 040	1975	10 255
1948	7 623	1976	15 641
1949	9 403	1977	26 000
1950	14 956	1978	20 686
1951	15 546	1979	15 694
1952	9 877	1980	11 363
1953	10 324	1981	8 791
1954	11 461	1982	6 832
1955	12 636	1983	8 247
1956	13 031	1984	8 550
1957	11 034	1985	11 401
1958	8 954	1986	13 711
1959	9 502	1987	11 174
1960	12 705	1988	7 767
1961	15 046	1989	4 911
1962	9 162	1990	4 722
1963	7 272	1991	4 256
1964	8 293	1992	4 289
1965	9 479	1993	8 078
1966	10 289	1994	10 235
1967	11 289	1995	8 725
1968	10 945	1996	9 708
1969	9 313	1997	8 946
1970	9 278	1998	8 276
1971	8 407	1999 est.	9 000
1972	7 884	Total	545 642

For the 20-year period between 1980 and 1999 a total of 157 808 people emigrated officially, but once again if the unofficial emigrants are added, this figure becomes approximately 315 000 and could be as high as 473 000. Another way of reaching roughly the same figure for this period is by using the UK's official statistics as a starting point: British sources claim that approximately 100 000 South Africans arrived in the UK on a permanent basis between 1984 and 1996.⁸ As the UK is the emigration destination of about 25% of South African emigrants,

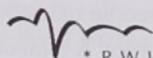
multiplying this number by four suggests that the total emigration by South Africans to all countries was about 400 000 between 1984 and 1996. To this number should be added the additional 10 000–20 000 people per year who have left unofficially since 1996, to arrive at a total of about 430 000–460 000 emigrants between 1984 and 1999.

The emigration statistics for the post-apartheid era after 1994 deserve specific scrutiny, because emigration during this period is viewed by many analysts as a reflection of the degree to which whites have accepted an ANC government, the transformation process and, crucially, the impact that rampant crime has had on emigration. R W Johnson, British historian and head of the Helen Suzman Foundation, estimates that between 250 000 and 500 000 South Africans have left South Africa since 1994.* A much more conservative estimate is that of Deon Geldenhuis, a professor at RAU, who suggests that about 65 000 people emigrated during the five-year period between 1994 and 1998.⁹

The actual figure probably lies somewhere in-between – Statistics South Africa's figures show that about 55 000 emigrants officially left South Africa between 1994 and 1999: this implies that at least a further 55 000 and possibly as many as 110 000 may have left unofficially, and therefore that the total number of people who left South Africa under the ANC government could be as high as 165 000.

The net loss/gain

Table 2.2 below depicts the net gain (+) or loss (–) of people each year since 1945.



* R W Johnson, quoted in the *Sunday Times* [UK], 22 November 1998. A few months earlier his estimate was more conservative, when he suggested 'at least 200 000', *Sunday Times* [UK], 5 September 1998.

Table 2.2 Net gain/loss¹⁰

1945	-1 932	1973	+17 615
1946	+2 935	1974	+28 482
1947	+21 787	1975	+40 209
1948	+29 111	1976	+30 595
1949	+6 173	1977	-1 178
1950	-1 293	1978	-2 017
1951	+344	1979	+2 986
1952	+9 098	1980	+18 002
1953	+6 943	1981	+32 751
1954	+5 258	1982	+38 952
1955	+4 048	1983	+22 236
1956	+2 207	1984	+20 243
1957	+3 597	1985	+5 883
1958	+5 747	1986	-6 171
1959	+3 096	1987	-3 221
1960	-2 900	1988	+2 633
1961	+1 327	1989	+6 359
1962	+11 810	1990	+9 777
1963	+30 741	1991	+8 123
1964	+32 603	1992	+4 397
1965	+28 858	1993	+1 746
1966	+37 762	1994	-3 837
1967	+27 648	1995	-3 661
1968	+29 603	1996	-4 301
1969	+32 133	1997	-4 843
1970	+32 245	1998	-4 660
1971	+27 438	1999 est	-5 000
1972	+24 892	Total	+662 379

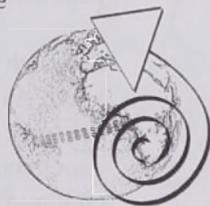
The net loss/gain table suggests that for 42 of the last 55 years more people officially entered the country on a permanent basis than those who left the country. A total of 1,2 million immigrants legally entered South Africa versus the 550 000 official emigrants, leading to an official (but incorrect) assumption of a net gain of just over

660 000 people. This figure should be adjusted to incorporate the number of unofficial emigrants, which could result in an emigration total of two or three times many, that is, between 1,1 million and 1,6 million emigrants between 1945 and 1999 – the result is either a small net gain of about 100 000 people or a net loss of 400 000 people. However, the 4–8 million illegal immigrants that have entered South Africa in the past decade may also have to be brought into the equation, for many of these are granted residency and will never leave South Africa again.

The official statistics, however inaccurate they may be, suggest that the only period in which there was a consistent net loss of people was from 1994 to 1999, when for the first time the country experienced an outflow for six consecutive years. This official net loss of 26 000 people translates to an unofficial net loss of approximately 135 000 (official emigration multiplied by three equals 165 000, minus 30 000 legal immigrants).

The mystery of the missing white million

The 1996 census indicated that there were only 4,4 million whites in South Africa, a figure which contrasts sharply with the 1985 census, which counted 4,9 million whites. This means that if the natural increase is added to the 1985 figure (equal to the positive difference between births and deaths due to a white birth rate of between 1% and 2%), and the approximately 130 000 immigrants since 1985 is also added, the white population should have been closer to 5,5 million by the mid-1990s. This implies that up to 1 million whites have disappeared since 1985. Is this possible? Could a census result be inaccurate or have a million whites indeed left South Africa during this *ten-year* period alone (almost equal to the author's estimate for the whole period between 1945 and 1999)?



Assuming that emigration during this period accounted at the most for 300 000 (close to 100 000 through official channels and a further 200 000 unofficially), a further 700 000 whites remain unaccounted for. This leaves two possibilities: either the 1985 or the 1996 census results were inaccurate, or both – an unlikely scenario – or the official scope of white emigration is totally underestimated. As argued before, the latter is the most probable.

Political analyst Lawrence Schlemmer argues that it is impossible that as many as one million whites could have emigrated. He offers another option, namely that the results of the survey are skewed because of an 'underestimation built into the census structure'. He claims that if a million whites had actually physically left the country, it

would have resulted in a vacuum in the economy that would have been evident in rapidly declining house prices and a shortage of skills.¹¹ Schlemmer's argument can be attacked from two sides: firstly, it ignores the influence of a rapidly growing black middle class which could have filled some of the gaps in the housing and skilled labour markets left by white emigrants; secondly, the housing market did in fact suffer a sharp decline during the period under consideration and it is indisputable that South Africa has been experiencing a drastic shortage of professional and managerial skills. Nonetheless, Schlemmer's argument cannot be discounted completely for it is virtually impossible for one million whites to have left the country over a ten-year span without various statistical sources (domestic and foreign) picking it up. However, at least the census confirms that the author's estimate of at least 500 000 emigrants over the past two decades is not too far off the mark.

2.3 HOW MANY PEOPLE POTENTIALLY MAY LEAVE?

Between 1,1 and 1,6 million people may have left South Africa since 1945 and the crucial question is whether South Africa will follow the example of other African countries such as Zimbabwe and Namibia, by losing between one half and two thirds of its 'European' population (and in Algeria's case almost all of its European population)?

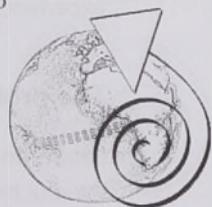
Although emigration is the topic of animated discussion at dinner parties all over South Africa, and hundreds of thousands of people admit that they have given the topic of emigration serious thought, it is doubtful that the country will ever experience a sudden large-scale exodus of its white population. What is likely to continue is the slow haemorrhaging of approximately 20 000 to 30 000 predominantly white emigrants per annum unless events in South Africa become apocalyptic and a racially based civil war or poverty-induced revolution erupts.

A survey commissioned by the *Sunday Times* in 1998 concluded that 74% of professional people in South Africa were thinking of emigrating.¹² A survey by *Finance Week* concluded that 31% of its readers want to emigrate, while 21% of the readers of its Afrikaans sister publication want to do so.¹³ A subsequent survey one year later by this newspaper found that 71% of professional South Africans were still considering leaving the country¹⁴. A survey by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) suggested that 69% of skilled people had *considered* leaving South Africa and that 28% *had a desire* to leave, but that only 20% were *very likely* to leave¹⁵. If these surveys are to be believed it is possible that between one quarter and three quarters of South Africa's professional sector, mostly white, could leave the country. It is a harsh reality that most South African

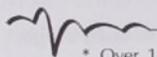
emigrants are from the professional sector but the converse is also true: most professionals in South Africa are potential emigrants.

If the current emigration pattern of between 20 000 and 30 000 per year continues, between 200 000 and 300 000 additional emigrants will leave South Africa over the next ten years. There is no convincing reason that this figure should be adjusted downwards – crime is the major reason that people are emigrating and there is little reason to assume that it will decline in the foreseeable future. Although the government appears to be willing to get to grips with crime, the underlying socio-economic causes of crime such as unemployment, poverty and the culture of violence are so firmly entrenched that a turnaround is virtually impossible over the short and medium terms – not only is the level of violent crime unacceptably high, but unemployment and, inter alia, poverty are increasing*.

Considering South Africa's relative economic and financial stability it is expected that current levels of emigration will be maintained unless a sudden political calamity arises. Should South Africa's political miracle come to a sudden end and conditions deteriorate to the level of civil war, the exodus would be of much greater proportions, not unlike what happened in Zimbabwe or Namibia, where between one half and two thirds of the whites emigrated. Under the latter scenario up to two and a half or three million of the remaining five million whites in South Africa could theoretically emigrate (flee might be a better description). Depending on the nature of the calamity, they could be joined by many middle-class blacks.



In practice, however, their numbers will be limited because the majority of whites in South Africa would probably not meet the strict entry requirements of most emigration destinations or would not have sufficient capital to buy their way into these countries. The whites of Namibia and Zimbabwe had a natural and virtually restriction-free refuge in South Africa, Britain and Germany, and the *Pied Noirs* of Algeria had a similar sanctuary in France, but most whites in South Africa do not have such a natural safe haven in the event of a racially based calamity. Apart from the 800 000-plus British passport holders and ancestral claimants, and the few hundred thousand Portuguese speakers and other Europeans, many English-speaking whites and most Afrikaners have no such option and will have to remain in South Africa or become refugees.



* Over 1 million jobs have been lost since 1990, of which 500 000 disappeared after 1995, while 45 000 non-farm jobs were lost in the 1998 fiscal year alone

2.4 WHO IS LEAVING?

For many years the profile of the typical South African emigrant was white, educated, English-speaking, and liberal in political orientation.* Emigration was regarded as an English-speaking South African 'disease', and as such, emigrants were derided by the Afrikaans media and the NP regime as people without loyalty to the country. Ironically, by 1999 the numbers of English-speaking Smiths and Joneses had been matched by the Afrikaans-speaking Van der Merwes and Van Niekerks, as well as occasionally by Dlameni, Fortuin and Naidoo.

Today the average emigrant is likely to be white (less than 10% are generic black – of these most are coloured and Asian rather than African), with the language split estimated at 50/50 English/Afrikaans, in his or her thirties and forties, and accompanied by one or two children and possibly a dog.** More than half, about 54% in an average year, will be from a professional (doctor, engineer, accountant, teacher/lecturer) or managerial/executive background. Only about one half or one third will notify the South African authorities that they are emigrating. The prime driving forces behind these emigrants are fear of violent crime, lawlessness and the lack of physical safety and in the vast majority of cases they would have had personal experience of South Africa's crime wave.

The professionals: a brain drain

South Africa's current emigration wave is closely associated with the flight of skills – the much-spoken-of 'brain drain'. Because of the strict entry requirements of various popular emigration destinations, people who have the most sought-after skills constitute the bulk of emigrants. Losing its skilled citizens is disastrous for South Africa, and is made worse by the huge shortage of skills as a result of South Africa's strict entry requirements for skilled immigrants. During the four-year period between 1995 and 1998 South Africa experienced a net loss of professional people, with the result that one third of companies cannot find the management and other skills that they require from the pool of local employees.¹⁶ By the end of 1999 South Africa had a shortage of between 350 000 and 500 000 managerial and technical staff¹⁷.



* The Nationalists claimed that PFP, the abbreviated name of the Progressive Federal Party, meant 'Packing for Perth' because so many of its supporters emigrated to Australia.

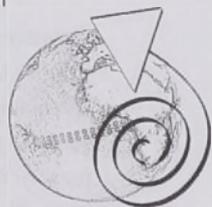
** Emigration consultants like to claim that 'lots' of their customers are African – this, however, is largely an attempt on their part to be politically correct and it is done with the intention to allay the concerns of white emigrants: the argument is that, if Africans are also emigrating in numbers, it must be 'OK'.

This critical shortage is exacerbated annually by a further loss of an estimated 18000 skilled people of whom about 7 500 are professionals.

The make-up of the emigrant population follows a clear pattern: on average 54% of South African official emigrants are economically active, among them doctors, scientists, engineers, teachers, nurses, farmers, clerical workers, artisans and accountants. The remainder are involved in housekeeping or are children, students, pensioners and others. The proportion of professionals relative to the total number of emigrants is higher than average for people moving to the USA – 77% of South African emigrants to America have tertiary education qualifications.¹⁸

According to Statistics South Africa the breakdown per occupational category for the 4 693 economically active emigrants in 1998 was as follows (of course, this number only represents official emigrants – the actual number should be triple, that is between 9 000 and 15 000, but the percentages below should remain relatively constant). Professional, semi-professional, technical and managerial occupations, that is, the first two categories below, made up 54% of skilled emigrants:

- Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations: 38% (of whom 7% were engineers, 5% educators, 5% accountants, 2% medical practitioners, and 19% other professions, totalling 38%)
- Managerial, executive and administrative occupations: 15,6%
- Clerical and sales: 17%
- Transport, delivery and communications: 0,8%
- Service occupations: 2%
- Artisans, apprentices: 6,5%
- Farming: 0,6%
- Others: 20,5%



(These categories are discussed in greater detail in chapter 5 under the 'Impact of emigration'.)

Afrikaners

Afrikaners are real South Africans. They do not have a second citizenship. This is their country – ANC spokesman, Smuts Nkonyama¹⁹.

Most Afrikaners in the post-1994 South Africa have experienced some degree of alienation from the structures within the new political dispensation. This is because Afrikaners, the now-disempowered ethnic minority, were the former rulers of South

Africa and carried most of the apartheid 'baggage'. In addition, they are an integral part of the supposedly wealthy white 'nation', according to Mbeki's thesis. Afrikaners ruled the country through their political vehicle, the National Party, exclusively between 1948 and 1994, a period of 46 years. During this period they had control of all the branches of state and dominated almost all aspects of society. Their loss of political power in 1994 resulted in the loss of access to the Civil Service and government patronage, and of the ability to use the power of the state to promote and protect the Afrikaans language and culture.

For Afrikaners the most immediate manifestation of their loss of power was the perceived and real loss of status of the Afrikaans language – in Parliament, in the Defence Force, in the courts, on national television, at South African Airways, in educational institutions, in the Civil Service and elsewhere. For the first time since 1948 Afrikaans became just one of 11 languages, and what's more, it was superseded by English as South Africa's lingua franca. While the elevated position of English is logical in a country with 11 official languages, many Afrikaners view it as a humiliating downgrading of their language, an onslaught against their culture, and confirmation of their fear that they have become 'second-class' citizens in their country of birth.

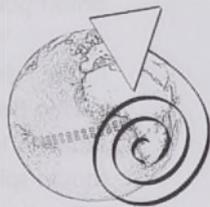
However, if the protection and promotion of the Afrikaans culture and language is a priority to many Afrikaners, it is obvious that this issue would not receive priority in Auckland, Sydney and New York, and that emigration will only further weaken the survival prospects of Afrikaans, especially in second-generation emigrants. For this reason it is not likely that too many Afrikaner emigrants will list the perceived 'assault' on their culture as a persuasive reason for emigration, and instead will fall back on the issue of violent crime to justify their departure.

Afrikaners now constitute almost half of the total number of South African emigrants in countries like New Zealand while 51% of South African doctors who emigrated to the Canadian province of Saskatchewan are Afrikaans-speaking²⁰. It is therefore possible to postulate that Afrikaners constitute almost half of the total estimated 20 000–30 000 emigrants each year. Still, the approximately 15 000 annual Afrikaner emigrants represent a very small percentage of the Afrikaner population of three million plus (over a period of ten years this will amount to 150 000 Afrikaner emigrants or 5% of the Afrikaner population).

The vast majority of Afrikaners, however, are still prepared to engage in a new struggle for the preservation of their position in South Africa and as part of the 'rainbow nation'. As the editor of *Beeld* commented: 'We're from Africa not from

Europe. We regard ourselves as Africans with paler skins . . . This is where we want our children to live and we want to make this country great for all its people²¹. Leading this struggle are Afrikaner intellectuals, cultural leaders and politicians, and the DP in particular, as well as the Freedom Front and NNP, has become a vocal proponent of the cultural rights of Afrikaners – this is hardly surprising, considering that more than half of Afrikaners voted for the DP in the 1999 general election. Other Afrikaners have organised themselves in informal and formal cultural organisations such as the ‘Group of 63’, the ‘Pro-Afrikaanse Aksiegroep, the Afrikanerbond, the FAK, the ATKV and the Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, to fight for the protection of Afrikaans and minority rights in general. In this regard the ‘boetman’ debate as initiated by radio producer Chris Louw early in 2000, probably achieved more than any of the attempts of the above organisations to highlight the sense of powerlessness experienced by Afrikaner males in present-day South Africa. In addition, Afrikaners as a group have responded to their loss of political power by actively pursuing economic power and broadening the Afrikaner share in the economy. Between 1994 and 1999 Afrikaner control of the JSE increased from 24% to 35%, while Afrikaans speakers (white and coloured) paid 37% of the country’s personal taxes and possess 32% of its disposable income.²² Proportionally this is a high figure, considering that Afrikaners make up only about 7% of the country’s population and Afrikaans speakers about 14%.

But, like the white population as a whole, the departure of Afrikaner skills will eventually have a serious impact on the strength and viability of this ethnic group and in economic terms on the country as a whole. It is precisely because the proportional economic power of Afrikaners is so much greater than their numbers that their departure from the country will have such an impact.



English-speaking South Africans

At least 800 000 British passport holders are living in South Africa, according to the British Consulate in Pretoria.²³ However, probably a much higher number can apply for British passports through ancestral ties, should they so wish.* It is estimated that between 3% and 7% of UK passport holders are planning to leave South Africa over the short term, that is, between 24 000 and 56 000 people over the next few

* About 20% of the 1,5 million South Africans who travel overseas each year do so with British passports, ie 300 000 people.

years.²⁴ This is considerably more than the 0,5% (or 2% over the next four years) of the whole of the white population that will emigrate.

How real a possibility is it that close to one million South Africans with British passports could arrive in the UK en masse? Although occasional rumours claim that the British government had drawn up contingency plans to evacuate all its subjects in the event of a racial conflagration in South Africa, there is little doubt that Britain would not cherish the idea of absorbing and providing jobs and houses to close to a million British passport holders from South Africa, many of whom had never set foot in the UK and are about as British in culture and allegiance as the Afrikaner world-class athlete from Bloemfontein, Zola Budd, was when she laid claim to a British ancestral passport in the 1980s to enable her to participate in the Olympic games.

The nervousness of the British government about large-scale influxes of expatriates from the former colonies is evident from its response during the Zimbabwe crisis in March 2000 – the British Foreign Office Minister, Peter Hain, caused some panic when he announced that contingency plans have been drawn up to evacuate the 20 000 British passport holders from Zimbabwe should the crisis worsen, and the *Independent* newspaper warned that the extent of the crisis will only dawn on the British public when they 'have to take in 20 000 British citizens'²⁵.

In the light of this one can only imagine the British reaction when 800 000 to one million British passport holders arrive en masse at Heathrow Airport in a similar crisis situation in South Africa or in the not unlikely event that the Zimbabwean crisis should spill over to South Africa.

This is not an impossible scenario, seen in the light of the ease with which Mugabe declared in April 2000 that white Zimbabweans were 'enemies of the state', and considering ANC spokesperson Smuts Nkonyama's suggestion that only Afrikaners and those without a second passport are 'real' South Africans. It can be assumed therefore that Nkonyama implied that those of Anglo-Saxon stock and the million-odd people with two passports are not 'real' South Africans. This could be a short step from declaring that certain 'unpatriotic' people in South Africa are enemies of the state, and ultimately that their citizenship should be taken away, as Mugabe's regime has recently attempted to do to whites in Zimbabwe.

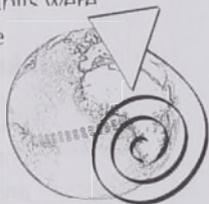
During the visit by British Prime Minister Tony Blair in January 1999, British officials made a special effort to calm the nerves of British passport-holders and those with access to British citizenship. This was in response to concern in the UK over the scale of South African emigration, and one of the reasons for Blair's visit was to persuade

prospective emigrants not to leave the country. His plea was presumably aimed directly at British passport holders and many others with ancestral ties who, if they should all leave for the UK at once, would cause major disruption to its socio-economic fabric. As expected, Blair was very frank in his advice to the government on the crime situation and suggested that crime should be viewed in the same light as an external threat, that is, it should be countered with similar resources to an invasion by an enemy country: 'Security from crime is the most basic demand the people of any country make and we must strive to answer it, just as we would an external threat from a warlike nation.'²⁶ Yet, he also placed a great deal of emphasis on the South African miracle and stressed that South Africans should stay and contribute rather than leave the country.

Jewish Emigration

They used to say you should watch the Jews. When they start leaving, then you know things are going downhill. They were the canaries in the mine shaft of society – Peter Godwin.²⁷

Godwin refers tongue-in-the-cheek to an old myth that Jewish migratory habits were a barometer of pending upheavals in a particular society – however, he claims that they have been replaced in South Africa today by a different kind of barometer, namely the exodus of 'lift technicians and computer programmers'.



Yet it is indisputable that over the past few years the Jewish community of South Africa have been leaving in steady numbers, and in proportionally greater numbers relative to the white population as a whole. The Jewish population in South Africa has declined because of this emigration from a peak of 120 000 to 75 000, that is, by almost 40%.²⁸ The Jewish Board of Deputies' estimation is more conservative: it judges the number of Jews in South Africa to be down from a peak of 120 000 in 1970 to about 100 000 today, that is, a decline of about 16%.²⁹

The actual figure is probably closer to 45 000, simply because 18 000 have settled in Israel alone, leaving little room in the calculation to account for the thousands of South African Jews who live in places such as the USA and Australia. If 45 000 is accepted as a reliable estimate, then it represents 37% of the total former Jewish population in South Africa, and suggests that Jewish emigration is proportionally higher than the percentage of other whites who have left the country.



Well-known personalities who have left South Africa in recent years

Our president has called those who leave the country cowards. I have to confess that I am now about to join the number of those cowards who are streaming out of the country – Anne Paton.*

Joining the ranks of the hundreds of thousands of ordinary South Africans who are leaving South Africa are many well-known people. Some have been living abroad for many years without ever emigrating officially, mostly without evoking much response from fellow South Africans. They go overseas on a temporary basis, ostensibly to continue with their careers, but after a few years many of these temporary emigrants return less frequently and become emigrants for all practical purposes.

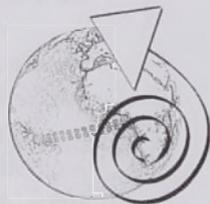
Many sports stars fall into this category: although not officially an emigrant, former Springbok captain François Pienaar left South Africa after being dismissed as captain of the national team to continue his career in England, to be followed four years later

* Anne Paton's husband was one of South Africa's foremost liberals and author of 'Cry the beloved country' – she left South Africa because of intolerable levels of crime in 1999.

by his successor, Gary Teichman. Joel Stransky, another hero of South Africa's World Rugby Cup victory, has also been playing in England for the past four years. Tiaan Strauss, former Springbok and Western Province rugby captain, went to Australia after failing selection for the 1995 World Cup squad, became naturalised and played for Australia's national rugby team against South Africa in 1999.* Other South African rugby players who live overseas include Dion O'Cuinneagain, who captained Ireland in the last World Cup, Mike Catt, who plays for England, and André Blom and Juan Grobler who play for the USA. Former Springbok flyhalf Gerald Bosch has been living in Brisbane for a few years.** The former SA Schools captain and flank of the former Northern Transvaal team, Bernard Pienaar, emigrated to Australia in 1999, as did Daniel Vickerman, a star of South Africa's 1997 under-21 rugby team.

Another sports hero who lives overseas most of the year is South Africa's top golfer, Ernie Els. Els's house near George was ransacked twice in three months, the second time by a man who has just murdered four people on a neighbouring farm – following this incident Els declared that 'crime was ruining the country he loves'.³⁰ Although he denied that the incident would make him leave South Africa, he already spends most of his time overseas and has recently bought a house in Britain.

Most members of the national soccer team, Bafana Bafana, live overseas and only come back occasionally to play matches for the national team. Tennis players like Amanda Coetzer and Wayne Ferreira have been living outside South Africa for years, but still play for the country in Davis Cup matches. World-class swimmer and holder of eight world records, Penny Heyns, lives in the USA. The first South African-born person to scale Mount Everest, George Mallory, lives in Melbourne. Irene van Dyk, South Africa's top netball player and one of the best players in the world, emigrated to New Zealand early in 2000.



* Strauss bravely sang the Australian national anthem before 50 000 Springbok supporters at the Newlands rugby stadium in Cape Town in 1999 and received a thunderous applause when he ran onto the field as a substitute.

** Former Springbok captain, Joost van der Westhuizen, threatened to emigrate in 1997 due to crime and fear for his family's safety, *Die Burger*, 20 June 1997. Other sports personalities who were less reluctant to use a threat to leave the country but claimed that they would understand if people leave the country because of crime included cricket stars Kepler Wessels and Fanie de Villiers, and former Springbok rugby captains Divan Serfontein and Naas Botha, *Die Burger*, 24 June 1998.

Many South Africans who are active in the film and media spheres have left South Africa. Actors like Arnold Vosloo, Charlize Theron, Embeth Davids and former television presenter/actress Sue-Anne Braun have made their mark in Hollywood and live more or less permanently in the United States. Several local television personalities, among them Prudence Solomon, Anand Naidoo, Nadia Bilchik, Jane Dutton and Tumi Makgabo, have left South Africa in recent years for places such as New York and Atlanta, and are working for the international news network CNN. Former SABC presenter and Afrikaans Radio personality Norma Odendaal and her husband, Frans, a radio producer, left for New Zealand in 1997. The Odendaals list crime and low expectations of South Africa's future as the main reasons for emigrating and argue that although they love the country and will miss their friends and family, the security risk of staying on has become too great. In 1998 South Africa lost two key players in the local entertainment industry when film and television producers Koos Roets (*Kooperasiestories*, *Kaalgat tussen die daisies*) and David Lister (*John Ross*, *Barney Barnato*, *Panic Mechanic*, etc) left for Australia because of crime and lack of work opportunities in the film industry. One of South Africa's foremost actors, Sean Taylor, half brother of former leader of the PFP, Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, was scheduled to settle in Melbourne in 2000.³¹ A former winner of the Miss South Africa beauty competition, Suzette van der Merwe, is living in Florida in the USA.

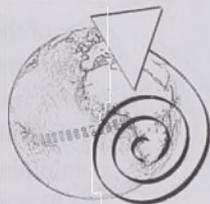
Famous Afrikaans author Marieta van der Vyver, whose book *Griet skryf 'n Sprokie* received numerous literary awards, left for France in 1999. She describes how she is caught up, like many Afrikaners, not knowing where she wants to be – if she is in South Africa, she longs to be in Europe, and if she is in Europe, she longs for South Africa. But even though Van der Vyver remains adamant that she 'was not emigrating' and would visit South Africa for two months each year, it is obvious that her move is more or less permanent, especially when she describes the safety, variety and general high quality of life in Provence. Other authors who are living outside South Africa include Annesu de Vos, Breyten Breytenbach, Christopher Hope (both in France), Athol Fugard and André P Brink. Andrea Durbach, the lawyer who represented the 25 people who were convicted of killing a policeman in Upington in 1985 (14 of whom were sentenced to death) and later published a book on the subject, titled *Upington*, emigrated to Australia in spite of her assurances that she would never leave this country³².

Many prominent academics and clerics are also leaving the country. Among them are people like Heila and Helgard Visagie, lecturers at the Technical College in Rustenberg, who emigrated to New Zealand because of crime. Professor Daneel Ferreira, winner of the Havenga Award for Chemistry and the only A-rated scientist

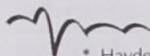
at the Free State University also left South Africa in 1998. Ferreira went to the USA because he did not see a future for South Africa, as it was 'fast becoming just another African country'. Referring to crime, he said that no amount of 'sunshine and money' could guarantee the safety of his family in South Africa.³³ Former Cape Town resident Professor Michael Hayden left South Africa to become director of the University of British Columbia's Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics.* Professor Mel Gray, formerly of the Faculty of Community and Development Studies at the University of Natal, emigrated to Australia. Robin Cox, a top Cape Town educationalist and acting principal of St Joseph's College in Rondebosch, emigrated to New Zealand in 1998, claiming he was 'exhausted' by the constant fight with the government over the future of private schools.

Prominent Muslim academics and scholars in the Cape left the country because of harassment and threats to their lives because they were deemed to be too moderate for fundamentalist Muslims. In September 1998 leading UCT academic and moderate Muslim scholar Ebrahim Moosa left on a 'sabbatical' to the USA, following threats to his life and a bomb attack on his family home. In the same month Sheikh Sa'dullah Khan, imam of Cape Town's largest Muslim congregation, also left for the USA after death threats.

Among the thousands of doctors who have left South Africa in recent years was Fanus Serfontein, after Chris Barnard probably South Africa's foremost heart surgeon. Serfontein left for Saudi Arabia in 1998, following his threats to emigrate because of the falling standards of healthcare in South Africa and confrontations with the Department of Health over heart transplants.³⁴ Barnard himself left South Africa to settle in Vienna, Austria, in March 2000, because he felt aggrieved by the treatment he received from the South African media. Former Cape Town heart specialist Christopher Knott-Graig emigrated to the USA in 1992 and lives in Oklahoma – he became the first heart surgeon in the world successfully to operate on babies with the normally fatal Ebstein's disease³⁵.



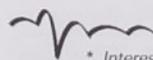
Among the many business people who have left the country is Rob Lee, a top economic analyst at the Board of Executors. In 1996 Lee left Cape Town for England, citing reasons ranging from the 'declining quality of education' and 'bleak job prospects for his children' to 'the deterioration of the public health sector, high



* Hayden recently made an important discovery about the relationship between certain people's genes and their propensity to unhealthy cholesterol levels.

personal tax rates, inflation and unemployment'.³⁶ Another emigrant with a strong business background was Ben Vosloo, former chief of the Small Business Development Corporation (now called Business Partners). Under Vosloo the SBDC provided more than 400 000 jobs and 50 000 businesses, but in 1996 he opted for the greener pastures of Australia, if not permanently, then for at least eight months of each year. Like many other emigrants he did not decide to emigrate formally but just to live elsewhere. He euphemistically describes his decision to leave as a 'relocation', as he would not be ending his citizenship. Vosloo cited his reasons as criminality, violence and the deteriorating quality of schools and public service. South Africa's top hotelier, Sol Kerzner, has been living in the USA and the UK for years, and has built himself a hotel empire outside South Africa with resorts in the USA, Bahamas and elsewhere. In 1999 one of South Africa's most experienced and successful marine diamond mining businessmen and MD of Ocean Diamond Mining, André Louw, left for Canada, and a former managing director of Iscor, Ben Alberts, for Australia, where he joined the board of Australia's largest resource company, Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP).^{*} Brent Hoberman, a South African living in the UK, became a billionaire in March 2000 when the company of which he was a co-founder, 'lastminute.com', was listed on the London Stock Exchange for over R5 billion.

One of the more unusual cases of emigration by politicians was that of Member of Parliament Cehill Pienaar, former member of the rightwing Conservative Party and later a member of the Inkatha Freedom Party. Pienaar's family had been living in New Zealand for a few years but he chose the unusual option of long-distance commuting between New Zealand and South Africa to enable him to fulfil his duties as MP during the six months that Parliament was in session each year. Pienaar was considering living in New Zealand permanently because of his concern for 'spiralling crime and a collapsing judiciary' in South Africa.³⁷ A member of the right of the political spectrum, Piet Gous, a former Member of Parliament and former president of the Free State Agricultural Union, announced in 1999 that he wanted to emigrate: 'There is no future (in South Africa) for educated professional Afrikaners.'³⁸ The statement by the leader of the New National Party, Martinus van Schalkwyk, that 'there would be no reason to stay in this country' should the ANC win a two-thirds majority in the 1999 elections drew an angry response from the ANC, which, through MP Tony Yengeni, expressed its 'disgust' at Van Schalkwyk's 'lack of commitment to South Africa'. Constand Viljoen, leader of the rightwing Freedom



** Interestingly, Louw's residency in Canada lasted only three months – he returned to South Africa in February 2000.*

Front, also threatened to emigrate if the new firearms law forces him to surrender his personal weapons³⁹. Billy Corbett, Director of Housing in the Cape Town municipality and a former Director-General of Housing in Mpumalanga, left South Africa for England in 1998 after he exposed a housing scam in Cape Town and in return received death threats from gangsters. At first he remained in his post and sent his family away to the safety of Oxfordshire, but after more threats abruptly left South Africa. The *Cape Times* lamented Corbett's departure:

There will be people who question Corbett's commitment to South Africa and argue that he took the easy way out while so many others continue to suffer in South Africa without the option of fleeing to another country. But Corbett's credentials, politically and professionally, are impeccable. [He] was forced to flee the country ... after death threats from gangsters.⁴⁰

Some South Africans who are driven to emigration by crime use their fame/reputation to make a political statement and to protest against violent crime. Their departures tend to cause ripples of anxiety among those remaining behind, especially in white society. One such case is Anne Paton, whose husband wrote the book, *Cry the beloved country*, that alerted the world to the injustices of apartheid. Her decision deserves a special mention: Anne Paton decided to leave the country after being the victim of a brutal car-hijacking, having experienced several break-ins at her home, and having several close friends becoming murder statistics. She poignantly described how her experiences left her with a sense of fear and dread of blacks and of being vulnerable at night-time and how her liberal values were being eroded by this fear:



I am still a liberal ... but I cannot live like this. This is not a life ... I am afraid it is simply not going to get better ... Many liberals are not feeling so liberal anymore. What is awful is the dreadful suspicion and fear.⁴¹

Corporate emigration – chicken run or global reality?

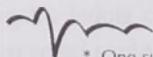
Not only humans cross the oceans in search of better opportunities and safer havens, but capital and corporations do so as well. The world has become a global village with capital moving freely each day in search of bigger returns, South Africa being no exception. Since 1994 the country has experienced large inflows and outflows of capital, but with more capital coming in than leaving, in contrast to the pre-1994 era

when disinvestment and the illegal transfer of funds overseas drained the country of capital. It is estimated that up to R50 billion may have been smuggled out of the country in the past few decades under successive apartheid governments, much of it by corrupt government officials.*

Like their human counterparts, the trend among South African companies is to relocate to the developed English-speaking world, mostly to the UK, Canada, Australia and the US. This is understandable as these countries are part of the First World and provide a safe and comfortable basis from which to operate. Access to an environment with low crime and cultural familiarity also determines the destination of such companies, especially as many members of senior management and their families normally have to relocate to the new host countries.

Much of the money that left the country after 1994 was with the blessing of the ANC government, which relaxed exchange controls and not only allowed individuals to invest overseas but also let companies list on foreign stock markets and move capital abroad. Private investors, who were allowed to invest R750 000 overseas by 2000, were initially slow on the uptake and only a trickle of funds left the country in 1997, amounting to R613 million. The trickle turned into a steady stream in 1998 after the collapse of the emerging world markets and the drastic 40% decline in the value of the rand between June and August 1998. By October 1998 the amount of money invested overseas by South Africans rose to over R2 billion and to over R9 billion by the end of 1999 – still far less than the R60 billion that some economists expected.⁴² The total funds that ‘emigrated’ from South Africa after the relaxation of foreign exchange controls commenced under the ANC-led government, amounted to more than R200 billion by late-1999 – however, this included loans to foreign institutions by individuals and companies in South Africa.⁴³

South African companies benefited greatly from the return of South Africa to the global economy and from fewer restrictions on the flow of capital. The trickle of corporate emigrants of the mid-1990s became a flood by 1998–99, with Anglo American’s listing on the London Stock Exchange leading the pack in terms of sheer size, but many others joined. Apart from Anglo, among the other companies which

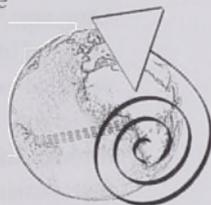


* One such example is the head of the apartheid government’s chemical warfare programme, Wouter Basson, who is accused of stealing over R40 million of government money, a large part of which was stashed away in foreign property and bank accounts.

listed overseas were De Beers/Centenary in 1990 in Switzerland with R41 billion, Trans Hex in Canada in 1996, Gold Fields (USA or Canada), Anglo Gold (USA), Sappi (USA), and insurance giant Old Mutual, Dimension Data, South African Breweries and Billiton in London. By 1999 the government had become anxious and began subtly to discourage too many primary foreign listings.

Other companies went on shopping sprees to acquire footholds outside South Africa, with Australia a particularly popular destination. By early 1998 South African companies had spent close to Aus\$3 billion expanding, acquiring or buying stakes in Australian companies – these included Billiton, Dimension Data, Bidvest, Barlow, Pepkor, Wooltru, Woolworths, Metro Cash & Carry, JCL, Iscor, Ingwe, Plessey and LeisureNet.

It is difficult to judge the impact on the South African economy when Anglo American and other large companies start expanding overseas and then moving their headquarters and primary listings as well. Anglo American's decision in October 1998 to move its primary listing from Johannesburg to London became the benchmark of corporate emigration. Anglo is South Africa's largest corporate entity with a market capitalisation of R4 -billion and has become synonymous with wealth and capitalism in South Africa. Its decision to move its head office outside the country had few obvious negative consequences on the economy. In fact, one of its main reasons for listing in London was to gain easier access to cheaper capital, and part of this capital could find its way to South Africa. Besides, no capital is actually leaving the country as such, according to analyst Nico Czyptionka.⁴⁴ The South African government was quick to signal its approval of the move by Anglo, claiming that it 'made a lot of sense'.⁴⁵



The current Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, has been one of the strongest defenders of offshore primary listings, arguing that the core assets and business activities of these companies remain in South Africa, the majority of their shareholders remain South African and these companies are able to raise larger amounts of capital than would have been possible on the JSE only.⁴⁶ Although most members of the South African business community viewed the move as a natural part of the globalisation process, certain analysts such as John Clemmow of London-based Investec Securities, viewed the move as a show of no confidence in South Africa, and stockbroker John Balderson described it as a 'sad' attempt to expand away from South Africa.⁴⁷ In the trade union movement too there was great unhappiness about 'unpatriotic' acts of 'economic treason' committed by the emigrating companies and what they perceived as a vote of no-confidence in the

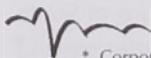
future of South Africa.* The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) accused Anglo of being 'only interested in making a quick buck regardless of the consequences to South Africa's people'. In an editorial titled 'Going offshore – chicken run or global reality?' the *Cape Argus* suggested that 'only time will tell' whether it strengthens or weakens the South African economy.⁴⁸

What impact does corporate emigration have on individuals? There is little doubt that by geographically diversifying Anglo and others are perceived to be expressing a note of disquiet over the longer-term prospects of the country. Many ordinary citizens become anxious when large corporations takes measures to reduce their risk and exposure to a South African economy plagued by emerging market status. The psychological impact of this move on the fragile nerves of many skilled whites cannot be underestimated. For years they have been saying goodbye to many of their colleagues and neighbours who were emigrating, and now that the major companies and their employers are also 'jumping ship', where does this leave them and should they follow?

2.5 WHERE ARE THEY HEADING?

Language and cultural similarities, living standards, family ties, climate, and the demand for the skills of emigrants are decisive in determining where an emigrant will settle. Shortages of certain skills in a particular country will create a huge demand for emigrants with those skills, albeit temporarily, and will ensure an easy passage through the tangle of immigration bureaucracy and red tape. Statistics over the past few years indicate that South African emigrants overwhelmingly choose English-speaking, industrialised countries and 81% of South African emigrants settle in First World countries. Between 65% and 75% settle in the five most popular countries, namely the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The growing popularity of Australia and New Zealand in particular is an indication that many emigrants want to live where there are some kinds of cultural similarities, like language, sports such as rugby and cricket, huge open spaces and a similar climate. In spite of its climate, the UK remains a perpetually popular choice, but this



* Corporate emigration added a new dimension to the 'chicken-run' debate. Cartoonist Zapiro drew a headless 'Anglo' chicken running with his suitcase towards an aircraft that depicted the London Stock Market, with the caption 'Join the chicken run – Anglo's: a taste of Britain', *Sunday Times*, 18 October 1998.

is partly because of historic ties and because hundreds of thousands of South Africans have access to British passports and therefore to opportunities anywhere within the European Union. Because of the availability of work and its reputation as the premier emigration destination in the world, the USA remains a major destination for South African emigrants, especially professionals and IT specialists. Canada has also become increasingly popular because of its reputation of being the best country in the world in which to live in spite of its cold climate – it is also seen as a backdoor to the USA.

The most popular destinations for South African emigrants, according to official figures provided by the Statistics South Africa for 1996 to 1998, are listed in table 2.3:

Table 2.3

Country	1998	1997	1996
UK	26%	26%	23%
Australia	16%	11%	5%
Namibia	10%	5%	n/a
USA	8%	9%	10%
New Zealand	7%	11%	10%
Canada	5%	7%	8%

Emigrants not listed in the above table went to destinations such as Zimbabwe with 2,5% of emigrants in 1997, Germany with 2%, the Netherlands with 1,2%, Switzerland with 1%, Israel with 1%, Malawi with 1% and Zambia with 1%. Europe as a whole, excluding the UK, was the destination for close to one third of emigrants in 1998, according to Statistics South Africa.

When one considers the preferences of only those with professional qualifications, the USA is by far the most popular:

Table 2.4

Country	1998
USA	38%
UK	26%
Australia	19%
Canada	9%
New Zealand	5%

Taking both tables above into account, the six most popular destinations for South African emigrants over the past three years were:

Table 2.5

UK	25%
Australia	18%
USA	10,6%
New Zealand	10,3%
Canada	6,6%
Namibia	5%
(Rest of Europe)	25%

THE LOGISTICS OF EMIGRATION

Emigration is not just a matter of selling your home, finding a new owner for Rex the dog and buying a one-way ticket to a crime-free world of suburban bliss – Esann de Kock¹

I have lived here for 35 years. I shall leave with anguish. To leave my home and my friends, my country, will be like cutting off a limb – Anne Paton²

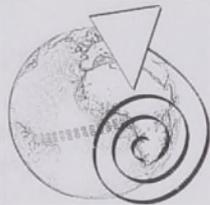
We will know our grandchildren mainly by courtesy of undersea cables – Denis Beckett³

Leaving South Africa for me is not a matter of simply packing my bags and going. My predecessors came out with Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 and there is a lot to be sorted out – former MD of Ocean Diamond Mining, André Louw⁴

3.1 HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO EMIGRATE?

The presence of hundreds of thousands of South African emigrants all over the world is evidence that, irrespective of obstacles and sacrifices, emigration has become a realistic and logical choice for many predominantly white South Africans and is viewed as a readily available alternative to life in South Africa. However, at least four distinct obstacles face a typical emigrant: emotional and psychological barriers; the steep costs of emigration; the financial and administrative barriers erected by the South African authorities; the entry restrictions placed on emigration by various countries through a multitude of entry requirements.

The key to successful emigration lies in overcoming these barriers one by one, but even the most meticulous planning and the highest number of emigration points cannot always overcome what could be the biggest hurdle, namely the emotional costs of emigration – saying goodbye to family, friends, the family pet, to a particular lifestyle, traditions and familiar things, and to one's country of birth and all it represents – these are all the things that often prove to be the greatest obstacle.



This emotional aspect can be so overwhelming that it deters many prospective emigrants at the last minute or at least makes them postpone their move as long as they can, while it makes some return to South Africa after only a short time overseas. For this reason many countries follow a liberal emigration policy when it comes to the reuniting of families – for example in Canada, Australia and New Zealand it is possible for emigrants to sponsor parents, brothers and sisters, and sometimes even grandparents to enter these countries as immigrants.

Psychological and emotional aspects

It is not unusual for emigrants and the ones they leave behind to describe emigration as a kind of a 'death', for emigration can be a very traumatic experience. The psychological stress of leaving behind family, friends, contacts and familiar surroundings and exchanging these for a new alien environment acts as a deterrent to many prospective emigrants. Among the typical comments from emigrants describing the pain and emotional turmoil are the following:

Most people who emigrate do so after a great deal of agonising and soul-searching . . . Emigration is one of the most stressful of life's experiences – emigrant⁵

It's not right to describe emigrating as a funeral, but it is a type of death . . . When the plane took off from [Johannesburg Airport], I looked down and wondered what the hell I was doing . . . some people go through emigration sobbing – Pam Nordon in Sydney⁶

When she finally got on the plane, [she] cried so much that the air hostess asked her if there had been a death in the family – emigrant, Sydney⁷

[He] talks about missing the 'five Fs' when assessing life in Australia: family, friends, finance, fellowship and familiar things – Barry X, Australia⁸

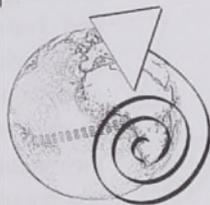
People may call it the chicken run, but emigration is the most painful thing you can ever do. I just long for those people who've been part of my life for 38 years – Jane de Jong, Perth⁹

This may also explain why so many people do not to use the term emigration, that is, because of its finality – instead they refer euphemistically to 'relocation' and to 'going overseas for a while' – in fact, as mentioned elsewhere, up to two thirds of

people leaving South Africa each year do not formally 'emigrate', although this is probably largely for practical reasons rather than emotional ones.

Many emigrants have to cope with feelings of guilt at leaving the country in which they grew up and which educated them – they are often accused of having lived off the fat of the land and wanting to jump ship when the going gets tough. However, up to two thirds of emigrants, according to an Idasa survey, want to stay and help build South Africa, but feel compelled to leave because of crime. As a result, they feel unfairly targeted by accusations of cowardice and claims that they are not 'real South Africans'. Such guilt feelings will probably not deter an emigrant from leaving South Africa, but they do have a psychological impact.

In addition, once they have committed themselves to going (and especially when formal emigrants sign their emigration forms), many emigrants develop serious doubts about whether they are doing the right thing. These feelings intensify as their date of departure draws closer and they begin to question their decision. Typical questions may include the following: if so many people talk about emigrating, why do so few actually go? How will they cope with the weather and how long will it take to make new friends? What if they can't get jobs? The worse time is the period shortly before they depart and when they see their friends, family and other people carrying on with their lives as usual – planning their next beach holiday at Hermanus, 'Plet', Sun City or in the Kruger National Park, getting excited about the coming rugby or cricket season and the Springboks' chances against the All Blacks – for many emigrants the sense of isolation starts long before they board the plane for Sydney or London.



That these emigrants are torn between their love for the country and the fear of crime in itself is a tremendously complex psychological issue and is discussed in a later chapter. Emigration also places strain on relationships with family and friends who oppose the emigrant's choice. According to Mark Lister, brother of Truth Commissioner Richard Lister, his decision to emigrate to Australia was met with anger and resentment from friends and relatives, which is not an unusual response.¹⁰ The following comments re-enforce the perception that many people are reluctant emigrants but feel they have no choice:

My daughter and her friends love their home. They love South Africa. Like thousands of others they welcomed change with the innocence and exuberance of youth. They were proud to be part of the rainbow nation, but now, like hundreds similarly affected by crime, they say they must go

– driven out by a madness that has gripped this wonderful country and is slowly smashing it to bits – Liz Clarke, journalist*

Last year [referring to the 1994 elections] I was so elated – standing in queues to vote was the most incredible feeling. It was the first time I could walk around and look everybody in the eye. I was acquiring my freedom, too. But then with the first hijacking I got my first taste of fear ... I am not prepared to sacrifice my future and my children's future. I just don't want to live with this fear – anonymous emigrant about to leave for Australia.**

Fear of the unknown that awaits an emigrant adds to the psychological stress. Some emigrants, especially those who are sponsored by family, have never even been outside South Africa, while most others may have visited another country but never actually lived in one. Although many emigrants take along some of their household possessions, clothes and books, many others go with only their bulging suitcases.***

All emigrants though, both official and unofficial, have to say goodbye to things that they took for granted and start anew. Emigrants have to make new friends, build up new social and business contacts, apply for jobs, convert their degrees and professional qualifications, and do mundane things like apply for drivers' licences and social security cards and become accustomed to the local Sydney, New York, Liverpool and other accents. Many emigrants suddenly realise that they have to start all over again and that their status and achievements in South Africa mean little in their host country: 'In Jo'burg I was popular and busy – here (in Sydney) the phone didn't ring. Emigration has been the best leveller that I've ever experienced' – Sharon Diamond, in Sydney.¹¹

For this reason, age is another distinct factor that has to be considered – the older the person, the more difficult it becomes to adapt to a new environment, make new friends and find work. To quote Fourie and Joubert:

* Liz Clarke, correspondent of the *Saturday Argus*, 3–4 May 98, after her daughter was assaulted at her home by five thugs and had her car hijacked.

** An anonymous Johannesburg-based accountant about to emigrate to Australia, contrasting her elation of being part of the South Africa's 1994-miracle and her despair of being caught in the crime wave, *Vancouver Sun*, 18 December 1995.

*** Many emigrants ship their South African wine collections to their new homelands and quickly learn how to make their own boerewors and biltong.

The net present value of migration formula shows us that older migrants have fewer years to recoup their migration investment. Older people also have higher levels of human capital that is specific to their present employers and this capital cannot always be transferred to a new employer. Thus, the remunerations will be lower at the new employer ... Taking all of the above into account, we can state that 'All else being equal, the greater a person's age, the less likely he or she is to migrate.'¹²

Another possible psychological obstacle is fear of how one will be received in a foreign country as an immigrant. Fourie and Joubert describe this not just as a fear, but as the reality of 'foreigner negativity' which South African emigrants may experience in the form of hostility once they arrive at their destination. The reasons for these feelings could be that the locals feel that the immigrants take their jobs, or feel threatened by the foreign culture, especially if emigrants don't assimilate quickly.¹³ This hostility may not always be directed against South African emigrants in particular, but could be a result of the growing worldwide backlash against emigrants and refugees in general.

However, white South Africans do carry the particular burden of their apartheid history, which sometimes causes ill-feeling among locals, as is shown in the discussion of emigrants in New Zealand in a later chapter. A further issue that can result in foreign hostility is the attachment and the value that many white South Africans place on material possessions, status and titles, which can cause offence or elicit ridicule in more egalitarian societies such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada.



In addition, South African emigrants may also feel ill at ease in countries where the culture or faiths differ sharply from their own.¹⁴ However, this is not really an issue in any of the five top emigration destinations.

To prepare themselves better for the emotional and practical shocks that inevitably accompany the emigration process, prospective emigrants are advised to do their homework properly through research on the Internet, read newspapers at foreign embassies and, most important, discuss the logistics and implications of emigration with friends and family members who have already emigrated.

Emigrants will do well to consider the following advice when deciding to take the big step:

- Prepare and plan thoroughly and try to find work before they go.
- Allow themselves at least five years to settle down.

- Do not complain, and try to adapt to the ways of the host country.
- Be prepared to do/accept any kind of work initially.
- Make sure that the whole family unit is united in its desire to emigrate.
- Use the many opportunities that will present themselves.
- Expect setbacks, disappointments, culture shock and homesickness.
- Make use of networking and support systems.
- Do not try to duplicate another South Africa somewhere else.¹⁵

Financial aspects

A rough estimate of the major costs of emigration is as follows, using Australia as a benchmark:¹⁶

Table 3.1

Emigration application with Australian High Commission	R 3 500
Minimum legal fees for application	R 3 500
One-way tickets for example to Sydney for a family of four	R 16 000
Shipping a container from Cape Town to Sydney	R 25 000 (to R 40 000)
Storing household effects in Sydney for month	R 2 000
Quarantine (3 months in Pretoria and 4 months in Sydney)	R 16 000
Flying large family dog to Australia	R 4 000
Total	R 70 000 (to R 85 000)

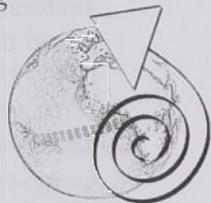
The biggest cost component of moving overseas is physically transporting the contents of a house. The South African Reserve Bank stipulates that unless people emigrate officially they are not entitled to take along their household effects with one or two exceptions. They will therefore not have to incur the moving costs, but the downside is that furniture and household effects will then have to be purchased overseas. In certain countries where the cost of living is relatively low, such as Canada, it might be possible to furnish a house with the money saved on not taking a container across – R40 000 can buy a lot of furniture, depending on personal taste and requirements.

Because of the recent relaxing of exchange controls, there are exceptions to the Reserve Bank's rules: the first is that people who 'relocate', that is, go overseas temporarily (presumably fewer than five years), can take along household goods and personal belongings on condition that they bring these back with them when they return; also, anyone who leaves the country unofficially can take along household and personal effects worth up to R50 000, without prior official approval or tax

clearance forms or other bureaucracy – all that is required is a written note to the removal company that the items packed in a container are not worth more than R50 000, and they can be insured at replacement value.

Although animal travel companies claim that business has never been better, the exorbitant cost of transporting and in particular the quarantine of domestic animals result in the majority of emigrants emigrating without their pets. This leads to a great degree of additional stress for finding a safe home for pets is never easy.* While the UK, Australia and New Zealand adhere to strict quarantine regulations that could add between R16 000 and R20 000 to the transportation cost and result in pets being held in quarantine for up to eight months, Canada has no quarantine regulations and it is therefore considerably cheaper to move animals there – all that is required is a rabies certificate and the transportation costs. A pet travel agency such as 'Animal Travel Services' of Cape Town asks about R5 000 to transport a medium- to large-sized dog like a Rhodesian Ridgeback or German Shepherd to Canada via Europe, and close to R6 000 for a large St Bernard-type dog.

Companies which specialise in international removals such as Britannia, Econo-Freight, Pickfords, Eliot, Stuttaford Van Lines, Magna and others are all doing brisk business and have all become familiar names in suburban streets as growing numbers of families depart for foreign shores. The various removal companies offer basically the same service and follow the same procedure to physically move the emigrant's household effects to the country of destination. Attending a moving seminar provides the emigrant with useful information on how to go about the whole removal business, which can appear daunting at first.



A typical removal company is Magna International Movers, a company which claims that its 'professionalism will move you'. Magna offers regular free (and well-attended) seminars countrywide and its affable managing director and presenter, David Buchanan (a 'lad from Glasgow'), often has his spellbound audience in stitches with recollections of his experiences in the business of international moving.

* A typical emotionally-draining story is that of the Slatem family of Cape Town, who emigrated to New Zealand in 1999 to join up with their children, who had left earlier. After the Slatems decided that they could not afford taking their beloved boxer dogs, which were like children to them, they succeeded, after a lengthy search, to find a decent-looking owner for the dogs. However, when they went to check on the dogs the next day to make sure that they were being looked after, they found the bewildered-looking dogs running around in the street. The Slatems took the dogs back immediately and after terrible agony, called in a veterinarian to their home to put the dogs down the night before they left for Auckland.

Although most of these prospective emigrants, predominantly white and mostly between 20 and 40 years old, have already qualified to emigrate, attending this seminar brings them closer to the reality of what it means to physically transplant themselves to another country. For the first time many of them hear terminology such as 20 ft (30 cubic metres of packing space) and 40 ft containers (60 cubic metres), 'bubble packs', 'corro wrap', 'crating', 'MP336 and NEP forms, storage, transit times, marine insurance and blocked accounts. Most listen in awe and takes notes religiously, and it is obvious from the questions that many are nervous or slightly apprehensive. Buchanan tries to reassure them by exclaiming: 'It's OK to move, don't worry about negative propaganda' and urges them to 'be positive' to 'take one day at a time', to 'communicate with your spouse and children' and to regard the relocation as an 'adventure'. At the end of the evening many of these prospective emigrants appear to leave the venue slightly dazed by the amount of information they had received and more than a little shocked by the costs of moving. However, they seem excited and the animated discussions that continue long after the seminar ends indicate that for most of them there will be no turning back.

Rules and regulations

Traditionally South African authorities, especially under the former NP regimes, have placed draconian administrative and financial barriers in the way of emigrants, as part of their strategy to contain the flow of whites and capital out of South Africa, particularly when the country became increasingly isolated and the world more hostile. Although the NP government took some tentative steps towards relaxing foreign exchange regulations in the early 1990s, the ANC-led government began to relax these restrictions almost immediately after it came to power in 1994. Apart from ever-increasing travel allowances and a more relaxed approach to emigration allowances, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel for the first time allowed individuals and companies to invest money overseas.

The rules governing emigration and travel allowances change constantly, and the amount of money that one can take depends greatly on whether one is leaving the country officially or unofficially. As of February 2000 the regulations for emigration allowances were as follows: emigrants who leave the country through official channels are allowed to take with them R1 million worth of personal effects such as household goods, cars and jewellery, a settling-in allowance of R400 000 per family (if married with children) and a further R130 000 travel allowance per family member older than 12 (R40 000 if younger than 12). This means that a family of four (with children over 12) can take R1 920 000 when they emigrate officially and slightly less if the children are younger. An independent emigrant older than 18 can

take a settling-in allowance of R200 000. Any money that is left behind has to be placed in a blocked account with a bank. All the income from this money can be taken overseas, but the capital (up to R75 000 per year) can only be used to cover living expenses when visiting South Africa, while additional money can be used for donations and a few other personal expenses in South Africa.

Should a family of four who want to leave South Africa decide to skip the red tape and leave unofficially, they can only take along their travel allowance of R130 000 per person, that is, R520 000 (with two children older than 12) and household effects worth less than R50 000. The benefits of leaving unofficially are that it saves the time and effort of obtaining all the official documents and waiting for a tax clearance certificate from the Receiver of Revenue, and it makes it simple to return to South Africa if the grass is not greener on the other side. In addition there is a way to get past some of the restrictions – it is technically possible, although legally a ‘grey area’, to regard one’s overseas stay as temporary and return to South Africa every year to collect the R130 000 travel allowance – the only requirements are that one’s ticket must be bought in South Africa and that the money must only be spent on travel and subsistence.¹⁷

If an emigrant has already invested some of the R750 000 that he or she is allowed as a South African resident overseas, this amount will be subtracted from his or her settling-in allowance.

While the amount of money that emigrants are allowed to take with them may sound a lot, its value diminishes rapidly when converted into the currency of all top emigration destinations – for example R1 translates into about 14c in the USA or 9 pence in the UK. Because of a weak currency it is much harder for an emigrant to maintain a similar lifestyle in most emigration destinations if he earns the same sort of salary. The following example illustrates this problem: if an emigrant earns a salary of, for example, a typical financial manager in Johannesburg of R325 000 (\$50 000), he or she will have to earn about \$64 000 in Wellington, New Zealand, about \$147 000 in New York and almost FF700 000 in Paris to match his or her Johannesburg lifestyle¹⁸. The website www.homefair.com provides a tool for calculating comparable local-foreign lifestyle/earnings ratios.



With regard to insurance policies or retirement annuities, Martin Spring, editor of *Personal Finance* newsletter, advises emigrants that South African insurers will maintain the life cover of an emigrant for a reasonable period until new arrangements have taken effect. Spring warns, however, that emigrants can only transfer their insurability, and not the actual contract with its accumulated benefits. If

an insurer in the country to which an emigrant moves is associated with that emigrant's South African insurance company, he or she should receive the same amount of life cover, with a premium for age and gender, and a medical examination will not be required. However, the investment value of a policy, that is, the amount payable at death or maturity over and above the life cover, is not normally transferable to the country of emigration, but can be transferred as part of the settling allowance. Spring suggests that with other life insurance policies the best option would be to keep on paying monthly premiums, rather than cashing in the policies or discontinuing premiums.¹⁹

Administratively, emigrants have to overcome some red tape: a person who emigrates officially has to obtain an MP336, that is, a request for a settling-in allowance, which can be obtained through a commercial bank. To obtain such a form, emigrants have to have a tax clearance certificate from the Receiver of Revenue to certify that their tax affairs are in order. An NEP form is also required, which has to be attested by a commercial bank and allows emigrants to take their household effects along, should these be worth more than R50 000. Should an emigrant want to ship his or her wine collection, an export permit is required from the Directorate for Plant and Quality Control, while a police clearance certificate and an export permit are required if he or she wishes to ship a car.

A disturbing trend which has emerged recently is that a number of people are leaving the country without honouring their debts. These emigrants regard their debts in the same light as other problems they are trying to escape. Since it is almost impossible for creditors to chase after them and use legal means to get their money or goods back, they normally get away with it, as long as they intend never to return to South Africa. This kind of activity is simply a matter of breaking the law, which clearly states that goods bought on credit cannot be moved anywhere until they have been paid for in full. Still, the law does not seem to deter such unscrupulous people who wish to emigrate away from their financial obligations. It is becoming more of the norm now for removal companies, debt collectors and retailers selling on credit to share information about customers whom they suspect of wanting to take this route.

Entry requirements of selected countries

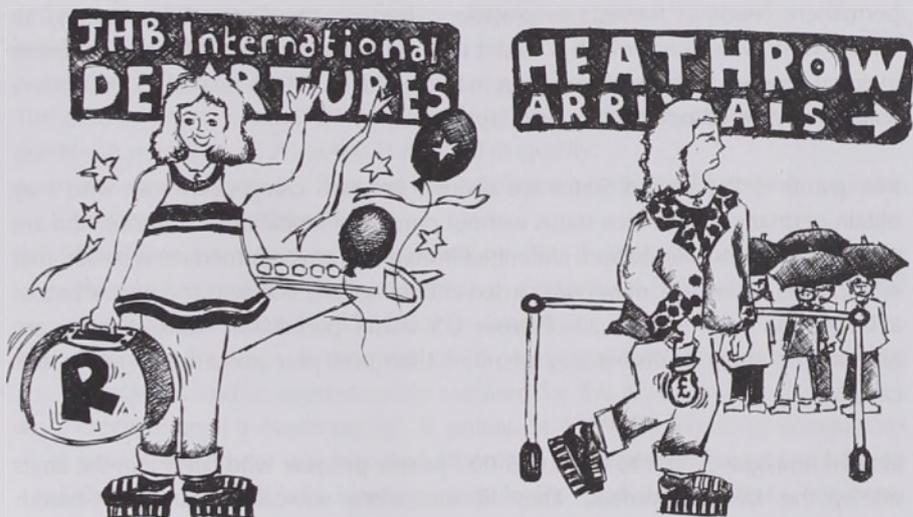
Entry requirements for emigrants vary from country to country and depend on whether the person falls into the category of an independent applicant, a business applicant, a family sponsorship applicant or a refugee. This chapter provides a brief overview of the entry requirements for the five top emigration countries – the

purpose is primarily to highlight the constraints posed by emigration law in each country and is in no way meant to be a guide to their emigration requirements. More detailed information is obtainable at all the embassies or high commissions in Pretoria or at their websites on the Internet as listed below.

United Kingdom

About 800 000 people in South Africa have British passports and more are eligible through parents/grandparents – the UK's 'right of return' clause provides applicants with temporary residence and a work permit for four years before applicants can apply for permanent residence. The information on emigration below was obtained from the British High Commission and from the website: <http://www.britain.org.za/visa/visainfo.html>

There are several categories of emigration and relocation to the UK for non-British nationals residing in South Africa. Apart from the two-year work permit for those below 27 years (or four-year permit if one has a British parent or grandparent), there are various emigration categories: for example for Commonwealth citizens with a grandparent born in the UK (ancestry); for joining one's family in the UK; the right of abode category; as a self-employed business person; as an investor; as a retired person of independent means; or as a dependant of someone in one of these categories.



The rules regarding the right of abode are as follows. If an applicant's parents were born in the UK he or she may be a British citizen or have the right of abode in the UK. All British citizens have the right of abode. Even if they are not citizens they could still have the right of abode if they were Commonwealth citizens before 1983 and had a parent who at the time of their birth was a citizen of the UK and colonies and had received his or her citizenship by being born in the UK, or if he or she was a Commonwealth citizen and is or was the wife of a man with the right of abode.

For Commonwealth citizens with a grandparent born in the UK the rules stipulate that they must be at least 17 years old, and they must have a job offer or genuinely intend to seek employment in the UK. The ancestry visa grants applicants entry into the UK for four years.

Business or self-employed applicants or investors must bring with them at least £200 000 of their own money to invest in the business, and these investments must create new, paid, full-time employment for at least two people who are already settled in the UK.

United States of America

The American system of emigration is reasonably straightforward, even if the process of obtaining an immigrant visa is not. To become a legal permanent resident, an alien must first be admitted as an immigrant. There are three basic methods for obtaining this immigrant visa: through a family relationship with a US citizen or legal permanent resident; through employment; through the Green Card Lottery, an annual worldwide event which is meant to ensure that immigrants to the USA come in equal proportions from all countries in the world. In 1998 a total of 55 000 lottery visas were granted out of millions of applicants.

Immigrants to the United States are divided into two categories: those who may obtain permanent residence status without numerical limitation; and those who are subject to an annual limitation. Unlimited immigrants cover immediate relatives, that is, a spouse, widow(er), minor unmarried children of a US citizen, and the parents of a US citizen who is over 21. Former US lawful permanent residents who are returning to the US after a stay of more than one year abroad also fall in this category.

Limited immigrants refer to those 675 000 people per year who fall within the limits set by the US government. They fit into three sub-categories: family-based; employment-based (priority workers; professionals holding advanced degrees and

people of exceptional ability; professionals; skilled and unskilled workers; special immigrants; and investors with about \$500 000 to \$1 000 000 capital who will create employment for at least ten unrelated persons; and the immigrant visa lottery. More detailed information is obtainable at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/ukimvisa.html>

Canada

Immigrants to Canada can enter as independent applicants, on business visas, family visas or as refugees. Business immigrants are people who enter as investors, entrepreneurs or self-employed persons. Family-class immigrants are sponsored by a relative such as a parent, fiancé or spouse. Refugees are people seeking protection because of fear of persecution in their own country. Canada accepts between 200 000 and 225 000 immigrants each year.

A prospective South African emigrant who wants to apply for a visa to enter Canada as an independent applicant has to meet a minimum number of points, a requirement needed to set the process in motion. If applicants obtain the minimum number of points, according to the self-evaluation test forms obtainable on the Internet from the Canadian High Commission, they have to submit their application forms to that office in Pretoria. A R4 000 non-refundable application fee (plus a further R3 000 landing fee should the application be successful) should accompany the application, and thereafter applicants must undergo a medical examination by a designated physician, ensure that sufficient funds are available to support themselves and their dependants, and obtain police clearances certificates – the waiting period is normally between six and nine months.



The points system is based on ten criteria, each weighing a different number of points – a minimum of 70 points is needed to qualify:

- Age – a maximum of 10 scored if an applicant is between 21 and 44 years old, and zero if older than 49;
- Education – a maximum of 16 points on offer if an applicant has a second or third-level university degree such as a master's or PhD, with other lower qualifications worth 15, 13, 10 or fewer points;
- Education/training – a maximum of 18 points based on the length of training, education, and/or apprenticeship required for this occupation in Canada;
- Occupation – a maximum of 10 points. In 1999 the following occupations were among those which scored 10 points: occupational therapists, radiation therapists, speech and language pathologists, audiologists, chefs, computer programmers, and computer systems analysts;

- Arranged employment – a job offer by a Canadian employer equals 10 points;
- Work experience – a maximum of 8 points;
- Language ability – a maximum of 15 points – fluency in both English and French is worth 15 points, but fluency in only one language is worth 9 points;
- Demographic factor – this is pre-determined by the government and will automatically give the applicant 8 points;
- Personal suitability – a maximum of 10 points are on offer, depending on how successfully an applicant is expected to settle in Canada – the average score is 6 points (applicants should have at least 60 points before these points are added);
- Relatives in Canada – a brother, sister, mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew who is a permanent resident is worth 5 points.

More detailed information on the points system and other requirements is available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigr/index.html>

New Zealand

Of the five top emigration destinations, New Zealand currently appears to be the least difficult country to enter as an emigrant from South Africa. There are four main categories for residence applications in New Zealand: general skills; business investor; family; and humanitarian.

- The general skills category is a system whereby applicants score points for a number of factors such as qualifications, work experience, an offer of employment and age. To be granted residence under the general skills category applicants must score enough points to meet the pass mark and all other requirements. Applications scoring the minimum of 25 points or more will be approved only if they meet the relevant weekly pass mark. This category is rated, first, according to 'employability factors', whereby applicants must score between 1 and 10 points for work experience and a minimum of 10 points for qualifications; a maximum of 5 points can be allocated if there is a genuine offer of employment in New Zealand, dependent on certain requirements; a maximum of 10 points can be allocated if the applicant is between 25 and 29 years old, but those above 50 years will get 0 points. The second element in this category is 'settlement factors', whereby a maximum of 7 points can be allocated for funds transferred to New Zealand (for example 2 points for N\$200 000); a maximum of 2 points are given for the principal applicant's spouse's qualifications; a maximum of 2 points can be scored for work experience gained lawfully in New Zealand; a further 3 points can be

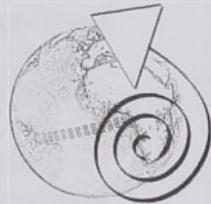
allocated for a family sponsor who must be able to provide financial support and accommodation for at least the first 12 months of residency in New Zealand.

- The business investor category allows applicants to score points for factors such as investment funds, business experience, qualifications and age.
- The family category is available to those applicants who are in a genuine and stable marriage, de facto or homosexual relationship with a New Zealand citizen or resident; or have immediate family members who are New Zealand citizens or residents and who live permanently in New Zealand.
- The humanitarian category is available to those applicants who have the support of a close family member who is a New Zealand citizen or residence permit holder and whose circumstances are causing serious physical or emotional harm to the applicant or the New Zealand party that can only be resolved by the applicant being granted residence in New Zealand.

For more details contact <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migration/general.html>

Australia

Australia's migration programme emphasises skilled migrants, that is, migrants with a good track record in business, a high level of education and occupational skills, or outstanding talents in a particular field. Of the 70 000 places in the annual migration programme half are allocated to skilled migrants, with the balance being made up of family-sponsored migrants and those qualifying under special eligibility arrangements. In addition, Australia has a humanitarian programme (12 000 places) which caters for refugees and other people who have left their homes and countries because of war or civil strife or who have experienced human rights abuses. More information is obtainable from the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs – at <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/migrate.htm>



Most emigrants enter Australia under the independent migration category or under the category of business migration and retirement. 'Business owner' immigration applicants are required to deposit A\$750 000 in Australian government bonds and they must have been successful owners or managers of businesses in which they had at least a 10% equity – the value of this business or other business interests should amount to at least R1 million. Other business categories are 'senior executives', 'starting a business in Australia' and 'starting a regional business in Australia'.

Under the independent migration category, points are awarded for a number of factors and the minimum requirement is 110 points. Applicants must be under 45 years when applying and will receive a maximum of 30 points if they are between 18 and 29 years; they must have sufficient ability in the English language for working in Australia – the ability to communicate effectively in English, that is reading, speaking, understanding and writing, is worth a maximum of 20 points; applicants must have post-secondary (such as university or trade) qualifications (in some cases substantial relevant work experience may be acceptable); applicants must nominate a skilled occupation which fits their skills and qualifications – this nominated occupation is worth up to 60 points, – but applicants must have been in paid employment in a skilled occupation for at least 12 of the 18 months before they apply. The initial non-refundable application fee for the principal applicant is A\$1 075, or about R4 000.

If potential emigrants discover that they do not meet Australian entry requirements, there are other, less conventional ways to enter the country. In 1998 Australia had the dubious distinction of becoming the first country to officially host a white South African refugee from crime. Cheryl Kennedy from Johannesburg and her two daughters applied for refugee status in Australia because they feared for their lives in a 'country where criminals were waging war on ordinary citizens' (she claimed that her brother had been murdered, she had been mugged five times, and a gun had been put against her daughter's head). With travellers' cheques worth R31 000 Kennedy simply packed her bags, bought air tickets and flew into Perth on a visitor's visa. On arrival she bought a car, found accommodation at a campsite, and enrolled her children in a local school in Broome in Western Australia. After the Australian government refused her application, she requested a review and the outcome is pending.²⁰

3.2 THE EMIGRATION CONSULTING INDUSTRY

... one of white South Africa's pastimes: finding a way to get the hell out of this country – Jeremy Gordin²¹

Although emigration consultancies provide a service which many prospective emigrants find useful, it is also perfectly possible to apply without their assistance. The information provided by the high commissions of Canada, Australia and New Zealand is particularly straightforward and easily obtainable by mail or on the Internet. Consular officials are generally helpful, if overly bureaucratic at times, and the whole application procedure is time-consuming but relatively simple.

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Once an emigrant has completed an assessment and obtained the minimum number of points required for residency, it is a matter of requesting the application forms from the embassy, filling these out, getting originals or in some cases certified copies of all required documentation, getting police clearance certificates, and together with a non-refundable application fee, sending the whole application package, preferably by courier, to the embassy. Processing times can take from six months to two years, depending on the country and the backlog of applications.

Should the point systems and stringent entry criteria appear confusing to the average prospective emigrant, a whole industry of emigration consultants has emerged to assist emigrants in understanding the complexities of applying and ensuring that they meet the strict criteria. They will charge a few thousand rand in the form of processing or consulting fees, which could be viewed as money well spent or, in other cases, a complete waste. On average, an emigration consultant could charge between R12 000 and R20 000 per family for handling the paperwork and all the other aspects of applying for a visa.

Emigration consulting has become big business in South Africa. Sunday newspapers are filled with advertisements by emigration agents and a multitude of weekly emigration seminars. The Business Section of the *Sunday Times* on any Sunday in 1999 contained 10 to 15 advertisements by emigration consultants. Among these, with their slogans, were SBS International ('A complete and professional one-stop service to Australia'), International Immigration Alliance ('Where in the world do you want to be?'), Four Corners Migration Specialists, and Execu Immigration ('We can be of assistance with all your immigration needs').

A typical emigration consultancy based in, say, Canada, will occasionally offers free emigration seminars in South Africa and even a free personal assessment of the emigration prospects of individual clients. During an emigration seminar consultants inform prospective clients of the points system, the latest changes to Canadian migration law, and the costs involved in applying for and making use of their services. They provide an evaluation of the relative weight of each category in the points system and general information on the average income, taxes, cost of living and social security system in Canada. Their fee amounts to roughly US\$3 500 for a independent worker application and US\$4 000 for a business application.

Similar information on other countries is available from companies such as Protea Management Services, Australia–Canada–New Zealand Consultants, Network Migration Services, and the Australian Business Migration Network. A free service is offered by Soft Landings: Newcomers Assistance Inc Canada. This group was founded by an ex-South African, Harris Abro, and his goal is to provide prospective emigrants with information on what to expect in Canada and put them in touch with service providers in the emigration industry, including Canadian banks, emigration lawyers, furniture removers, insurance brokers and placement agencies. Soft Landings operates on a 'not-for-profit' basis and covers its costs by charging service providers an advertising fee. Its Internet address is at <http://www.softlandings.co.za>. The 'Australia South Africa Connection' provides information on emigration to Australia, lists hundreds of South African-owned businesses in Australia, and provides useful information about the country itself – it publishes a booklet and owns its own website at www.ozza.com.au.

Emigration seminars have become part of South African social life – it is not unusual to see crowds lining up outside seminar rooms in hotels booked by emigration consultancies on any specific night in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. Since many people who are considering emigrating prefer to keep their intentions low-key for various reasons (not wanting to risk jobs or alienate family members) until quite close to their departure, it is amusing sometimes to see the embarrassed, surprised or

delighted responses when people who know one another socially or from work bump into each other at these seminars – after the knee-jerk reaction of ‘You too?’, the discussion quickly turns to newly discovered aspects of mutual concern such as where to?, when? and why? Should they discover that they are going to the same country or, even better, the same city, contact numbers are quickly exchanged, for this is a clear case of the-more-the-merrier – emigrants are firm believers in the strength of numbers and draw comfort from the knowledge that they will not be alone in a place like Auckland, San Diego or Toronto.

Charlotte Bauer of the *Sunday Times* attended one such seminar and she provided an entertaining summation of a mechanics of a typical seminar:

Couples silently took their seats, many clutching notebooks, while a video showed the sights and culinary delights of ‘marvellous Melbourne’ . . . A lone black couple stood out among a sea of anxious white faces . . . Towards the end of the seminar [the emigration lawyer] introduced the prospective clients to the dreaded ‘points system’, by which dreams of living in a condo on Sydney Harbour hang or perish. The audience grew tense with concentration as he explained Australia’s ever-tightening immigration noose . . . Afterwards, an obedient line of couples queued up to buy an ‘Info Pack’ . . . Mr and Mrs Average looked dazed but hopeful as they left the seminar.²²

The anxiety on the faces of those who attended Bauer’s emigration seminar tells its own story: these people are not emigrating because of the ‘culinary delights’ of Melbourne or to find a ‘condo’ in Sydney Harbour, as insinuated so flippantly by Bauer – their reason for ‘wanting to get the hell out of here’ is much more modest – they simply want to escape from the relentless onslaught of violent crime that is ravaging South Africa and its people. This is the core message of the next chapter.

