

Directory: South Africa's Independent Unions*

The membership figures for each union are the most up-to-date at the time of going to press. The length of each entry was dependent on the replies received from each union.

CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS (COSATU)

1 Amalgamated Black Workers Union (ABWU)

Head Office: Room 41, Tudor Mansions, 78 Troye Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 230815

General Secretary: S Nhlapo

Founded: 1984

Membership: paid up - 1,000
total - 6,000

Organising sectors: non-specified

Affiliation: United Democratic Front

General: Formed after a split from the Black Allied Workers Union.

2 Cape Town Municipal Workers Association (CTMWA)

Head Office: Trade Union House, Beverley Street, Athlone, Cape Town, or PO Box 49, Athlone, Cape Town

Tel: (021) 6378140

President: Andrew Johnson

General Secretary: John Ernstzen

Founded: around 1928

Membership: paid up - 11,097
total - 11,428

Organising sectors: municipality workers

General: Minutes of meetings date from 1950. There were problems of worker democracy and control up until 1964 when the existing leadership of the union was expelled and replaced after a lengthy and bitter struggle. The union aims to help form a national union of municipal workers in the near future, although it currently only represents municipality workers in the Cape Town area.

3 Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU)

Head Office Address: Box 18349, Dalbridge 4014, Durban or Central Court, 125 Gale Street, Durban

* Data for the directory collected by Estelle Randall.

- directory -

Tel: (031) 301 7401/3

President: C Makgaleng

General Secretary: R Crompton

Founded: 1974

Membership: paid up - 20,700

total - 20,736

Organising sectors: chemicals, plastic, rubber, glass, industrial minerals, petroleum and coal products, gas, candles, oils and fats

Branches: Transvaal, Southern Natal, Northern Natal, Eastern Province and (still to be formerly constituted) Western Province

Affiliation: formerly FOSATU, International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers Unions

General: It started as an affiliate of the Trade Union Advisory Co-ordinating Committee (TUACC). The period 1974 to 1976 saw banning and detention of the union's leadership and a change in strategy from wider organising to plant-based organisation. In 1979, TUACC became part of FOSATU. Long recognition battles began with Henkel, Colgate and Revertex. The first agreements were signed in 1980-81 and a phase of rapid growth began. In 1982 consumer boycotts were called at Henkel and Colgate. The union also merged with the Glass and Allied Workers' Union in that year. A major campaign for the re-instatement of Sasol workers was waged in 1984-85, dismissed for participating in the November 1984 Transvaal stay-away. The majority of workers were reinstated and the union has since increased its membership at Sasol. But shortly after this victory, the union lost one of its executive members, Andries Raditsela, who died of head injuries on May 6 this year, soon after his release from police custody. His death was commemorated nationally by workers in all major independent trade unions.

4 Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union of South Africa (CCAWUSA)

Head Office: 2nd Floor, Khotso House, de Villiers Street, Johannesburg 2000

Tel: (011) 236127

President: M Ledwaba

General Secretary: E Mashinini

Founded: 1975

Membership: paid up - 50,345

total - 50,345

Organising sectors: catering and retail

Branches: Natal (Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Newcastle), Transvaal (Johannesburg, Klerksdorp, Pietersburg, Pretoria), Orange Vaal (Vereeniging, Bleomfontein), Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth, East

London), Western Cape (Cape Town)

Affiliation: International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET), International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF)

General: The union was formed in 1975 as a parallel union to two TUCSA unions - the National Union of Distributive Workers (NUDAW) and the National Union of Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers (NUCCAW) - but won its independence at an early stage. The period 1981 to 1984 saw a rapid expansion in CCAWUSA's membership: from 5,000 to 33,000. It engaged in major recognition strikes in 1981 and 1982. In 1985 it succeeded in preventing retrenchments, nationally, at OK Bazaars and won its battle for recognition with Spar after strike and boycott action. CCAWUSA has led the way in winning maternity rights and benefits. A major shift in the union's organisation occurred in 1984 when it amended its constitution to include "coloured" and "Indian" workers. It became non-racial in August 1985.

5 Food and Canning Workers Union (FCWU)

Head Office: 355 Albert Road, Woodstock, Cape Town, or PO Box 234, Salt River 7925

Tel: (021) 471034

President: Irwin Pereira

General Secretary: Jan Theron

Founded: 1941

Membership: paid up - 26,455
total - 26,455

Organising sectors: food

Branches: Ashton, Ceres, Cape Town, Gansbaai, George, Grabouw, Malmesbury, Saldanha Bay, Somerset West, Wellington, Worcester, Paarl, Mossel Bay, Lamberts Bay, Molteno, Johannesburg, Kempton Park, Pretoria, Queenstown, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth

General: The African Food and Canning Workers Union and the Food and Canning Workers Union amalgamated in 1985 in line with a 1984 conference decision and the union's policy. The situation of having two unions - one for "coloured" workers and one for "African" workers - was a result of the government's policy of not recognising rights for African workers. The FCWU has a long and proud history of struggle. From 1955 to the early 1960s, it was a stalwart of SACTU. In 1979 the successful struggle waged by the A/FCWU against Fattis and Monis heralded an era of major advance for the union and the working class. Currently moves are well underway to amalgamate with Sweet Food and Allied Workers Union.

- directory -

6 General and Allied Workers Union (GAWU)

Head Office: Box 261156, Johannesburg, or Tudor Mansions, 78 Troye Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 230815

President: Samson Ndou

General Secretary: Monde Mditshwa

Founded: 1980

Membership: paid up - 19,076
total - 34,000

Organising sectors: transport, building, engineering, services, local government

Affiliation: UDF, Joint Union Education Project

General: Formed after a split from Black Allied Workers Union.

7 General Workers Union (GWU)

Head Office: 11 Benbow Building, Beverley Street, Athlone, Cape Town

Tel: (021) 6382592

President: M F Gona

General Secretary: M L Qotale

Founded: 1973

Membership: paid up - 10,000
total - 10,000

Organising sectors: transport, building and allied, engineering.

Branches: Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London

Affiliation: International Transport Federation (ITF)

General: The union started as an advice office. It first began organising workers in Cape Town docks, as the Western Province General Workers Union, and later expanded to organise dockworkers nationally. It has been a leading participant in the major debates within the emerging labour movement. On the registration question, GWU refused to register, arguing that this would compromise the principle of workers' control. After considerable debate, and taking account of the many changes in the objective conditions, GWU finally registered in 1985. It is presently engaged in merger talks with the Transport and General Workers Union.

8 General Workers Union of South Africa (GWUSA)

Head Office: Court Chambers, 623 Main Street, North End, Port Elizabeth, or PO Box 2924, Port Elizabeth 6000

Tel: (041) 544245

President: Dumile Makanda (Thobile Mhlahla - acting president)

General Secretary: Dennis Neer

Founded: 1981

Membership: paid up - 2,205
total - 5,000

Organising sectors: chemical, leather, retail, building,
textiles, maintenance

Branches: Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, East London

Affiliation: UDF

General: The President and an organiser were banned in 1982 and
this year the general secretary, Dennis Neer was detained.

9 Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU)

Head office: 2nd Floor, Harrester House, 65 Harrison Street,
Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 8341651

President: Jeffrey Vilane

General Secretary: Thembi Nabe

Founded: 1973

Membership: paid up - 36,789
total - 42,500

Organising sectors: electrical engineering, electronic equipment,
cables, motor, rubber, non-ferrous metals, iron and steel, heavy
engineering

Branches: Transvaal, Southern Natal, Northern Natal, Eastern
Province

Affiliation: formerly FOSATU, International Metalworkers
Federation (IMF), SA Co-ordinating Council of the IMF

General: MAWU's period of most rapid growth was 1981-82, during
which time a series of strike waves rocked the East Rand. The
union's forward march was temporarily halted when a number of
strikes were defeated, the most important being Scaw Metals where
workers were fighting to establish the right to bargain at plant
level. Since then MAWU has consolidated. In late 1985 a campaign
of proposed strike action was launched against the major metal
companies in the Transvaal where management refuses to negotiate
at plant as well as industrial council level. This indicates that
the union is now ready to take up that fight once again. MAWU is
currently engaged in merger talks with National Auto and Allied
Workers Union and Motor Industry Combined Workers Union.

10 Motor Assembly and Components Workers Union of South Africa (MACWUSA)

Head Office: 2nd Floor, Court Chambers, 623 Main Street, Port
Elizabeth, or PO Box 2924, Port Elizabeth 6000

Tel: (041) 544245

General Secretary: Dennis Neer

- directory -

Founded: 1980

Membership: paid up - 3,100

Organising sectors: motor industry

Branches: Port Elizabeth

Affiliation: UDF

General: Formed out of the Ford Workers Committee. About 700 workers at Ford's Cortina plant in Struandale walked out on October 31 1979 in protest at the dismissal of a trainee draughtsman at the plant, Thozamile Botha, then president of the Port Elizabeth Black Community Organisation (PEBCO). Today the union has strong links with PEBCO and believes in close links between factory and community issues. It works closely with GWUSA.

11 Municipal Workers Union of South Africa (MWUSA)

Head Office: PO Box 6207, Marshalltown

Tel: (011) 3373624

President: Gatsby Mazwi

General Secretary: J Gamede

Founded: 1982

Membership: paid up - 9,249

total - 10,000

Organising sectors: municipal and general

Affiliation: Public Services International, UDF, JUEP

General: In 1980 workers at the first meeting of the Union of Johannesburg Municipal Workers staged a mass walkout. The Black Municipality Workers Union was formed. In the same year, members of the Black Municipality Workers Union went on strike for higher wages - the first strike by municipal workers in South Africa in recent history. In 1982, however, a split occurred, resulting in the formation of the Municipal and General Workers Union of South Africa (MGWUSA) and the South African Black Municipality and Allied Workers Union (SABMAWU). The name was changed to MWUSA (1985).

12 National Automobile and Allied Workers Union (NAAWU)

Head Office: 9 & 10 Lotus Building, Cottrell Street, Port Elizabeth, or PO Box 4097, Port Elizabeth 6000

Tel: (041) 46010/9

President: J Harris

General Secretary: Fred Sauls

Founded: 1967

Membership: paid up - 20,338

total - 20,338

Organising sectors: bulb manufacturing, motor assembly, tyre, rubber, battery, carpet manufacturing

Branches: Eastern Cape, Transvaal, Natal, Western Cape
Affiliation: formerly FOSATU, IMF, SA Council of the IMF, International Federation of Chemical, Engineering and General Workers
General: NAAWU began in 1967 as the TUCSA-affiliated National Union of Motor Assembly Workers of South Africa. At that stage it consisted of mainly "coloured" workers from plants in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage. When the number of African workers in the motor industry increased in the early 1970s, the union, then called the National Union of Automobile and Rubber Workers of South Africa (NUMARWOSA), began to organise these workers in the United Automobile, Rubber and Allied Workers Union (UARAW). In 1976 NUMARWOSA left TUCSA and in 1979 assisted in the formation of FOSATU. NAAWU was finally formed in 1980 out of the Western Province Motor Assembly Workers Union (WPMAWU), UARAW and NUMARWOSA. In 1980 the union led an important strike at Volkswagen, Uitenhage, which established the principle of a "living wage". The union is currently involved in merger talks with MAWU and MICWU.

National Federation Of Workers (NFW)

Head Office: 15 Ecumenical Centre, 20 St Andrews Street, Durban 4001, or PO Box 47011, Greyville

Tel: (031) 3063993

General Secretary: Themba Nsumalo

Founded: 1980

Membership: paid up - 11,551
signed up - 20,521

Affiliation: UDF

General: Formed after a breakaway from the Black Allied Workers Union. In mid-1985 the NFW listed 11 affiliates

Affiliates: (followed by paid up membership, and signed up membership in brackets.)

13 Brick, Clay and Allied Workers Union - 748 (1,262)

14 Cleaning Services and Allied Workers Union - 850 (1,050)

15 Commercial Distributive Workers Union - 1,600 (2,050)

16 Health and Allied Workers Union - 1,111 (2,000)

17 National Post Office and Allied Workers Union - 2,163 (3,900)

18 National General Workers Union and Retail and Allied Workers Union (NGWU/RAWU)

Head Office: 374 Vermeulen Street, Pretoria

- directory -

Tel: (012) 218662

General Secretary: Jan Masemola/Donsie Khumalo

Founded: 1984

Membership: 6,057

Organising sectors: food distribution, dairies, bakeries, services, skin and hide

Affiliation: UDF, Joint Union Education Project.

19 National Iron, Steel, Metal Workers Union (NISMAU)

Head Office: Box 2599, Newcastle 2940

General Secretary: M Oliphant

Founded: 1980

Membership: paid up - 976

total - 2,279

Organising sectors: metal, distributive, glass

Affiliation: UDF

General: Formerly part of the National Federation of Workers.

20 National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)

Head Office: 5th Floor Lekton House, 5 Wanderers Street,

Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 294561

President: James Motlatsi

General Secretary: Cyril Ramaphosa

Founded: 1982

Membership: paid up - 100,000

signed up - 220,000

Organising sectors: mining

Branches: Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal, Cape

Affiliation: Miners International Federation, formerly CUSA

General: Formed after the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) passed a resolution in 1982 to organise mineworkers. The union's first members came from the Johannesburg depot of the Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA). A few weeks later, when six workers at the depot were retrenched, they became the first organisers for the NUM. On October 19 1982, two months after it was formed, the union was granted access to mines of the Chamber of Mines. Ten gold mines were targeted for organising and, in late 1984, three shaft stewards from each of these 10 mines drafted a constitution for the union. This was followed by the union's first national congress. The union led its first national strike in September 1984. Since then it has continued to grow and has engaged in a number of struggles to improve the living and working conditions of black miners. During 1985, there were boycotts of taxis, beer-

halls, mine concession stores and sports facilities. Following a legal strike in September 1985, where thousands of workers were dismissed and many injured and arrested, the union won reinstatement for workers dismissed from the Gencor mine, Marievale, in an important test case.

21 National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW)

Head Office: Central Court, 125 Gale Street, Durban

Tel: (031) 3014923/4

President: Nelson Mthombeni

General Secretary: John Copelyn

Founded: 1973

Membership: paid up - 23,241
total - 23,241

Organising sectors: textile, knitting, clothing, leather

Branches: Natal Coastal (Durban, Tongaat), Natal Midlands, Pine-
town, Ladysmith, Transvaal, Eastern Province, Western Province

Affiliation: formerly FOSATU, International Textile, Garment and
Leather Workers Federation

General: The union was a founding member of the TUACC which was later absorbed into FOSATU. About three months after it was formed, the union's leadership was put under house arrest. The union developed rapidly after the 1973 Frame textile strikes and signed its first recognition agreement in 1974 - with Smith and Nephew. It was the first house agreement to be signed by an unregistered union. 1976 saw more bannings of the union's leadership. In 1981 and 1982, the NUTW fought for recognition at many new factories. After 1982, the main campaign was to capture the mills of the Frame Group. After 53 legal cases over two years, recognition was won at the New Germany complex. NUTW sees this as a major victory in the struggle to break into all companies of the Frame Group. The union has strong links with unions in Europe and is active in the International Textile, Garment and Leather Federation. Two of its members sit on the executive of that body.

22 Paper Wood and Allied Workers Union (PWAU)

Head Office: 1st floor, Harrester House, 65 Harrison Street,
Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 8384725

President: Jerry Mbonambi

General Secretary: Jeremy Baskin

Founded: 1974

Membership: paid up - 11,856
total - 11,856

- directory -

Organising sectors: paper and pulp, paper printing and packaging, wood, sawmills, furniture

Branches: Transvaal, Northern Natal, Southern Natal, Western Cape

Affiliation: formerly FOSATU, links with the International Chemical and Energy Federation

General: By 1984, after a series of successful organising campaigns, PWAU had organised the majority of the country's paper mills. In Natal, the union was successful in breaking down traditional ethnic divisions fostered by the bosses. In mid 1984 the union joined the Pulp and Paper Industrial Council. It withdrew in August 1985 because the council had failed to meet its reasonable demands. The formal structure of the industrial council had hardly changed since the days of "whites only" representation. The Council has since collapsed.

23 Retail and Allied Workers Union (RAWU)

Head Office: formerly Corporation Chambers, Corporation Street Cape Town, but destroyed in a fire which swept through the building in October this year

Tel: none, for above reason

General Secretary: Allan Roberts

Founded: 1983

Membership: 3,830

Organising sectors: dairy employees in the Cape Peninsula

General: RAWU established a base at Dairy Belle after a strike in 1984 which stopped milk deliveries.

24 South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU)

Head Office: Box 261156, Johannesburg, or Tudor Mansion, 78 Troye Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 290423/4

President: Thozamile Gqueta

General Secretary: Bonile Tulumu

Founded: 1978

Membership: paid up - 25,032
total - 27,000

Organising sectors: metal, building, food, motor, electrical, rubber, plastic, chemical, printing, distribution, municipal, power stations, railways, health, transport, furniture, education, services, paper, wood

Affiliation: UDF, JUEP

General: Soon after its formation, SAAWU called a national boycott of Wilson Rowntree products when members of the union at the Eastern Cape plant were dismissed. The formation of support commit-

tees, made up of community and student organisations, to co-ordinate the boycott in support of the striking workers was a relatively new phenomenon in trade union activity at the time. Members of SAAWU played a leading role in the long-running bus boycott in East London (1983-84). Leaders of the union have been regularly harassed by the South African and Ciskeian authorities. The union is banned in the Ciskei, and its leaders are currently facing charges of "treason". During 1984, divisions surfaced within the union. However, the groupings still operate as SAAWU.

25 South African Domestic Workers Association (SADWA)

Head Office: 20 St Andrews Street, Durban

Tel: (031) 318322

President: Cephus Mkomo

General Secretary: Margaret Nhlapo

Founded: 1981

Membership: paid up - 4,500

total - 15,000

Organising sectors: domestic workers and cleaners

Branches: Transvaal, Cape Town, Durban, Orange Free State

Affiliation: JUEP

General: The union assisted in drawing up a minimum wage contract in 1982 as well as a service contract for domestic workers. Last year it started an unemployment fund for domestic workers.

26 South African Mineworkers Union (SAMWU)

Head Office: Box 7549, Johannesburg, or Tudor Mansions, 78 Troye Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 290423/4

Chairman: Samson Ndou

General Secretary: Sisa Njikelana

Founded: 1983

Membership: paid up - 3,029

total - 3,163

Organising sectors: mining

Affiliation: UDF, JUEP

General: SAMWU was formed on January 3 1983 by the following unions: GAWU, SAAWU, MGWUSA, OVGWU (Orange Vaal General Workers Union), NISMAWU and MACWUSA.

27 South African Railways and Harbours Union (SARHU)

Head Office: Box 7549, Johannesburg, or Tudor Mansions, 78 Troye Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 230815

- directory -

General Secretary: Catherine Navi
Founded: 1984
Membership: paid up - 8,220
 total - 8,740
Affiliation: UDF, JUEP.

28 South African Scooter Transport and Allied Workers Union (SASTAWU)

Head Office: Box 7549, Johannesburg
Tel: (011) 230667
General Secretary: Thabo Mohale
Founded: 1981/2
Membership: paid up - 4,700
 total - 14,000
Affiliation: UDF, JUEP

29 South African Textile and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU)

Head Office: Box 7002, East London 5200
Tel: (0431) 26899
General Secretary: Boyce Melitafa
Founded: 1984
Membership: paid up - 1,900
 total - 1,900
Organising sectors: garment, textile
Affiliation: UDF.

30 South African Tin Workers Union (SATWU)

Head Office: 301 Moor Chambers, 208 Grey Street, Durban 4001
Tel: (031) 329933
President: V Kistansamy
General Secretary: H Patel
Founded: 1937
Membership: paid up - 581
Organising sectors: sheetmetal and non-ferrous collapsible tube industries' (in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Western Cape)
General: Formerly an affiliate of SACTU.

31 Sweet Food and Allied Workers Union (SFAWU)

Head Office: Central Court, 125 Gale Street, Durban, or PO Box 18109, Dalbridge 4014
Tel: (031) 3017931 / 3017350
President: Chris Dlamini
General Secretary: Jay Naidoo
Founded: 1974

Membership: paid up - 19,596
total - 19,596

Organising sectors: sugar, milling, biscuits, bakeries, dairies, brewing, sweets and chocolate

Branches: Transvaal, Northern Natal, Southern Natal, Eastern Province

Affiliation: formerly FOSATU

General: SFAWU was formed after the strikes of 1977 in the Springs area. In 1980 it expanded to Southern Natal and in the next year, to Northern Natal. In 1983, it entered the Eastern Province. It is currently engaged in merger talks with the Food and Canning Workers Union. During 1985 the union was involved in two important strikes in the biscuit industry and against bread bakeries in the Durban area. The biscuit strike assisted SFAWU in establishing itself as a national union. One feature of the bread strike was the demand that free bread be distributed to the Sarmcol strikers. Both strikes saw TUCSA unions on the retreat.

32 Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU)

Head Office: 1st Floor, Harrester House, 65 Harrison Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 8364463

President: Jeremiah Zulu

General Secretary: Jane Barrett

Founded: 1973

Membership: paid up - 11,000
total - 14,500

Organising sectors: passenger transport, goods transport, stevedores, motor ferry, municipalities, SATS, cement products, hospitals, cleaning and security

Branches: Transvaal, Southern Natal, Northern Natal, Eastern Province

Affiliation: formerly FOSATU, International Transport Federation

General: After the 1973 Durban strikes, industrial unions were formed in the chemical, metal and textile industries. TGWU was set up as a general union and had its main base in Durban's docks. In 1979, when FOSATU was formed, TGWU's constitution was altered to cover more specific industries. It expanded to other provinces after this and since 1982 has focussed mainly on passenger and goods transport and local authorities. It is presently holding merger talks with the General Workers' Union.

33 United Mining Metal and Allied Workers of South Africa (UMMAWSA)

Head Office: PO Box 5698, Benoni South 1602

- directory -

Tel: (011) 546788

President: Andrew Zulu

General Secretary: David Sebabi

Founded: 1984

Membership: paid up - 8,335

total - 8,355

Organising sectors: mining, metal, motor

Branches: Transvaal

General: UMMAWSA was formed in mid-1984 when officials and members from the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) became dissatisfied with what they saw as the dominance of "white" intellectuals in MAWU and the union's reluctance to involve itself in politics outside the factory floor. Andrew Zulu, who was then vice-president of FOSATU, was one of the people who led the breakaway.

COUNCIL OF UNIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA (CUSA)

Head Office: 7th Floor Lekton House, 5 Wanderers Street,
Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 298031

President: James Mndaweni

General Secretary: Piroshaw Camay

Affiliation: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

General: The Council of Unions of South Africa was formed in 1980, joining together unions which had previously met as a loose co-ordinating committee - the Consultative Committee. At its 1982 conference the federation adopted a resolution to establish a union in the mining industry. The result was the giant National Union of Mineworkers. The federation is committed to "anti-racism" and "black leadership", although whites are allowed to join CUSA unions and work their way up through the ranks. The issue of anti-racism versus "non-racialism" divided the trade union unity talks in mid 1985 and led to a parting of the way between CUSA and the COSATU unions. In the process, NUM disaffiliated. CUSA, nevertheless, remains a force in the independent trade union movement, with a number of large industrial unions amongst its affiliates. It participates in both the UDF and the National Forum. Currently CUSA is working in cooperation with AZACTU.

Affiliates:

1 Brushes and Cleaners Workers Union (BCWU)

Head Office: Lekton House

Tel: (011) 298031

Membership: 1,600

2 Building Construction and Allied Workers Union (BCAWU)

Head Office: 6th Floor, Lekton House

Tel: (011) 236311

General Secretary: Aaron Nthinya

Founded: 1975

Membership: 40,774

Organising sectors: building and construction, building materials, cement products, roadmaking, ceramics, clay, stonecrushing

Affiliation: International Federation of Building and Woodworkers

General: Traditionally a difficult sector in which to organise, BCAWU has been involved in some very important and protracted struggles in order to establish trade union rights: Johnson Tiles and Pilkington Tiles, for example. The union has established a presence on the East Rand, and particularly Olifantsfontein, where a shop stewards council has recently been established.

3 Food and Beverage Workers Union (FBWU)

Head Office: 4th Floor Lekton House

Tel: (011) 299527/8

President: Longway Kwelemtini

General Secretary: Leonard Sikhakhane

Founded: 1980

Membership: 17,000

Organising sectors: food, dairies, baking, cold storage, canning and bottling, milling

Branches: Vaal, Klerksdorp, East Rand, Far West Rand, West Rand, Pietermaritzburg, Eastern Cape

Affiliation: IUF

General: This year FBWU won an important victory when it successfully negotiated an agreement to reduce the number of planned layoffs from 203 to 63 at three Coca Cola plants. The company accepted FBWU's plan to save jobs which included: a rolling-leave system, no new employment, no overtime, no casuals, early retirement and a freeze on capital expenditure.

4 National Union of Wine and Spirits Workers (NUWSW)

Head Office: 4th Floor, Lekton House

Tel: (011) 235561

President: N Nkosi

General Secretary: Fay Mandy

Founded: 1978

Membership: 6,000

Organising sectors: wine and spirits manufacturing

General: descended from previous unions: South African Distillers

- directory -

and Allied Trade Union; and the Wine, Spirit and Allied Workers Union of South Africa. In the early days the union was assisted by the Garment Workers Union of South Africa and the National Union of Clothing Workers.

5 South African Chemical Workers Union (SACWU)

Head Office: 3th Floor Lekton House

Tel: (011) 298920/9; 298907

President: Moses Nkosi

General Secretary: Michael Tsotetsi

Founded: 1972

Membership: 45,000

Organising sectors: chemical, pharmaceutical, explosives, fertilizer, rubber, glass, plastic

Branches: Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal, Cape

General: In early 1984, SACWU led the first national legal strike against the chemicals giant AECI. The workers returned to work after being threatened with dismissal and this raised the whole question of protection for legal strikers. In 1985 again, the union took on the might of AECI as part of a long-term strategy to win equal and improved conditions for all AECI employees.

6 South African Laundry, Dry Cleaning and Dyeing Workers Union (SALDCDWU)

Head Office: 4th Floor, Lekton House

Tel: (011) 239058

General Secretary: A Molefe

Founded: 1972

Membership: 5,700

Organising sectors: laundry, dry cleaning, and dyeing

7 Steel Engineering and Allied Workers Union (SEAWUSA)

Head Office: 5th Floor, Merlen House, 49 Simmonds Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 8344771/2/3

President: Lucas Molefe

General Secretary: Jane Hlongwane

Founded: 1979

Membership: 32,382

Organising sectors: steel, engineering, metal containers, plastics

Branches: Pietermaritzburg, Vereeniging, Alberton, Pretoria, West Rand, East Rand, Johannesburg

Affiliation: IMF

General: In 1981 the union started a strike and unemployment

fund. When it first negotiated in the industrial council in 1982, it managed to reduce watchmen's working hours from 72 hours a week to 48 hours.

8 Textile Workers Union (Transvaal) (TWU)

Head Office: Garment Centre, 75 End Street, Doornfontein

Tel: (011) 3376591

General Secretary: E Seloro

Founded: 1973

Membership: 2,850

Affiliations: International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation.

9 Transport and Allied Workers Union (TAWU)

Head Office: 6th Floor Lekton House

Tel: (011) 294784

President: Alex Mahlatsi

General Secretary: Esau Rankholo

Founded: 1973

Membership: 20,000

Organising sectors: passenger transport, goods transport, vehicle ferrying

Branches: Transvaal, Durban, Port Elizabeth

Affiliation: International Transport Federation

General: Despite its belief in black worker leadership, CUSA unions are open to all. In 1984, TAWU signed up two "white" bus drivers in Port Elizabeth. The drivers had been unfairly dismissed and TAWU defended them and secured their re-employment. The union was also instrumental in securing improved conditions for PUTCO drivers.

10 United African Motor Workers Union (UAMWU)

Head Office: 513-14 Willie Theron Building, Bosman Street, Pretoria

Tel: (012) 3230838

General Secretary: D Nowatha

Founded: 1980

Membership: 7,963

11 Vukani Black Guards and Allied Workers Union

Head Office: 7th Floor, Lekton House

Tel: (011) 298031

President: Jackson Marema

General Secretary: Mike Maimane

- directory -

Founded: 1981, formal launch July 1985

Membership: 1,161

Organising sectors: security

Branches: Pretoria, Vereeniging, Potchefstroom, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth

General: The union was formed because people in the security sector were not being serviced. The union says that where they have made their presence felt, significant changes in wages and conditions of work have taken place.

AZANIAN CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (AZACTU)

Discussions to form the alliance started in February 1984 and a formal announcement of its existence was made in August. At present AZACTU consists of several unions, the largest of which is the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU). In 1984 BAMCWU was engaged in a large strike at the Penge asbestos mine in the Northern Transvaal. About 1,700 workers went on a three week strike demanding recognition of the union and a minimum wage of R10 a shift. Despite determined struggle, the workers were all dismissed, evicted from their hostels and sent back to the neighbouring bantustans. Soon after the strike the union began a campaign to get asbestos mining banned because of the health hazards asbestos miners face. Another important union in the alliance, the Insurance, Assurance Workers Union of South Africa (IAWUSA) had its members at Liberty Life engaged in a strike for recognition of the union in 1983. The strike also involved picketing the company's headquarters and boycotts. AZACTU claims 60,000 to 70,000 members. Although the unions are all formally independent of the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO), some of them emerged from labour clinics set up by AZAPO in the late 1970s. AZACTU is an affiliate of the National Forum and has adopted the Azanian Manifesto. More recently, AZACTU has worked closely with CUSA.

Affiliates:

1 IAWUSA - 30,000

2 BAMCWU - 32,000

3 HOTELICA (formerly CUSA) - 10,000

4 African Allied Workers Union (AAWU) - 2,200

- 5 Black General Workers Union (BLAGWU) - 5,030
- 6 Black Electronic and Electrical Workers Union (BEEWU) - no figure available
- 7 National Union of Workers of South Africa (NUWSA) - no figure available
- 8 Black Domestic Workers Union - no figure available
- 9 EAWUSA - no figure available

Co-ordinators who may be contacted for information on AZACTU:
Pandelani Nefolovohdwe (general secretary of BAMCWU) - (011) 8346682 / 8346733
Joe Rakuoadi (general secretary of IAWUSA) - (011) 8384098

OTHER UNIONS

1 Black Allied Workers Union

General: BAWU was formed in 1972 on a platform of black consciousness. Much of the original leadership was banned in 1977. Based in Natal it has been weakened by numerous splits.
[No new information on this union]

2 Federated Council of Retail and Allied Workers (FEDCRAW)

Head Office: Room 93, Security Building, 95 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 8343875

President: Masilo Mpiti

General Secretary: Susan Moahlodi

Founded: 1984

Membership: 4,000

Organising sectors: retail

Branches: Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal

General: Formed after a breakaway from CCAWUSA. In September 1985, members of the union at an Edgars-owned store in Blackheath in the Transvaal struck in protest at the racist harassment meted out by one store controller in particular. Solidarity action spread and some 800 workers were sacked. On September 26, after pickets, boycotts and support action from other unions, Edgars management reinstated all dismissed workers and put the store controller on 6 weeks probation.

- directory -

3 Jewellers and Goldsmiths

Head Office: 2nd Floor, City Centre, Corporation Street, Cape Town

Tel: (021) 468086

President: Joe Davids

General Secretary: Ted Frazer

Founded: 1939

Membership: paid up - 470
total - 470

Organising sectors: manufacturing

Branches: Cape Town

Affiliation: formerly FOSATU

General: The union was originally called the Jewellers and Goldsmiths Society and began in the Transvaal. It was started mainly for workers using precious metals in their work but could include workers making any kind of ornaments, for example, pottery.

4 Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA)

Head Office: formerly Corporation Chambers, Corporation Street, Cape Town, but closed after fire destroyed the building in October this year

Tel: none, for above reason

President: none

General Secretary: none

A national interim committee is acting for the union until the two groups re-unite (see below)

Founded: 1980

Membership: paid up - 1,500
total - 1,500

Organising sectors: newspapers, printing and packaging

Branches: Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Southern Transvaal

Witbank, Far Northern Transvaal, Port Elizabeth, Border

Affiliation: links with the International Federation of Journalists

General: MWASA split over the questions of UDF affiliation and white participation in 1984. A reconciliation conference was held in August this year, however, in an effort to heal the division.

5 National Union of Printers and Allied Workers (NUPAWO)

Head Office: Room 315 Lekton House, 5 Wanderers Street, Johannesburg

Tel: (011) 235426/8

General Secretary: Thembekile Sahluko

Founded: 1984

Membership: paid up - 841
 total - 841
Organising sectors: printing
Affiliation: UDF.

6 Orange Vaal General Workers Union (OVGWU)

Head Office: 26 Leslie Street, Vereeniging 1933, or PO Box 81, Sharpeville 1933

Tel: (016) 220234

General Secretary: Phillip Masia

Founded: 1981

Membership: [unable to obtain current figures]

Organising sectors: civil engineering, municipal workers, hospitals, farms

Branches: Vereeniging

General: The union started as an off-shoot of the Industrial Aid Centre which operated in the Vereeniging area from 1978. It started with a miscellaneous membership but in 1982, at its formal inauguration, it demarcated four main areas of organisation (see above). It was originally party to the unity talks, but left the talks in 1983 when unions were asked to move towards industrial organisation as opposed to general union organisation.

7 Plastics and Allied Workers Union (PAWU)

Head Office: 705 Atlantic House, Corporation Street, Cape Town

Tel: (021) 453885

Chairman: Joseph Thee

General Secretary: John Appolis

Founded: 1984

Membership: paid up - 370

 total - 700

Organising sectors: plastics

Branches: Western Cape

General: The union was formed out of several workers' clubs set up in various areas in the Western Cape during 1983 and 1984.

8 South African Black Municipality and Allied Workers Union

Formerly affiliated to CUSA, this union recently disaffiliated

It has suffered from internal divisions and recently split.