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The demographic characteristics of European settlers in South Africa, 1652-1948

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Abstract

What we know about the demography of European settlers in South Africa is based on Ross's 1975 calculations of a sample of 300 observations. This paper provides a second perspective, using a dataset that includes information on 388,200 observations and spans the period 1652-1950. Useful descriptive statistics on key demographic indicators including population dynamics, age distributions, longevity, marriage patterns, and dependency burdens are estimated in order to shed new light on the comparative development performance and demographic transition of the South African settler population in an international context.