

# 2008 in figures

There is no denying that the most successful Test team in 2008 has been South Africa, with 11 wins and only two defeats. India and Sri Lanka came next, with Australia in fifth place. England did not shine. Does this mean the dawn of an epoch when Australia are reduced to the rank of mortals? Maybe, although a lot of cricket must be played before we can write obituaries for the team who have dominated world cricket for a decade. After all, this year did begin with them winning their sixteenth Test in a row

● Graeme Smith, of South Africa



## Test record

	Matches	Won	Lost	Draw	W/L	Ave*
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>45.13</b>
India	15	6	4	5	1.50	37.21
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>39.40</b>
England	12	5	4	3	1.25	33.96
<b>Australia</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>37.38</b>
New Zealand	14	4	6	4	0.66	29.22
<b>West Indies</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>30.69</b>
Bangladesh	8	0	7	1	0.00	19.75

Pakistan did not play a Test in 2008. Figures do not include ongoing Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

\*Average runs per wicket

## One-day internationals

	M	W	L	Tied	NR	W/L	Ave*	RPO
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>44.33</b>	<b>5.80</b>
New Zealand	15	10	3	1	1	3.33	35.85	5.33
<b>Australia</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>31.53</b>	<b>4.93</b>
South Africa	17	12	4	0	1	3.00	40.08	5.36
<b>India</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>35.99</b>	<b>5.53</b>
Sri Lanka	27	14	11	0	2	1.27	27.41	4.77
<b>England</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>30.04</b>	<b>5.27</b>
West Indies	19	5	13	0	1	0.38	28.28	5.00
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>22.65</b>	<b>4.39</b>

\*Average runs per wicket

## Leading Test batsmen

	M	Inns	No	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	0
<b>G C Smith (SA)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>72.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
V Sehwag (India)	14	27	1	1462	319	56.23	3	6	1
<b>R T Ponting (Aus)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1182</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>47.28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
H M Amla (SA)	15	24	2	1161	159	52.77	3	6	1
<b>G Gambhir (India)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>70.87</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
V V S Laxman (India)	15	27	4	1086	200	47.21	2	7	2
<b>N D McKenzie (SA)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1073</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>53.65</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
M J Clarke (Aus)	13	23	2	1063	118	50.61	4	5	2
<b>S R Tendulkar (India)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>48.31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
A B de Villiers (SA)	15	22	4	1061	217	58.94	4	2	1

## Leading Test bowlers

	Mat	Overs	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	SR	5	10
<b>D W Steyn (SA)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>442.1</b>	<b>1481</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6-72</b>	<b>10-154</b>	<b>20.01</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
M G Johnson (Aus)	14	585.0	1828	63	8-61	11-159	29.01	55.7	2	1
<b>Harbhajan Singh (India)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>705.0</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>6-102</b>	<b>10-153</b>	<b>31.53</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
B Lee (Aus)	14	580.1	1884	57	5-59	9-171	33.05	61.0	3	0
<b>D L Vettori (NZ)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>590.3</b>	<b>1411</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6-56</b>	<b>9-133</b>	<b>26.12</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
M Ntini (SA)	15	471.1	1537	54	5-94	7-149	28.46	52.3	1	0
<b>R J Sidebottom (Eng)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>355.0</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7-47</b>	<b>10-139</b>	<b>20.25</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
J M Anderson (Eng)	11	408.5	1373	46	7-43	9-98	29.84	53.3	2	0
<b>M Morkel (SA)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>377.1</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5-50</b>	<b>7-113</b>	<b>32.16</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
M Muralitharan (SL)	6	349.4	996	42	6-26	11-110	23.71	49.9	4	1

## World rankings (as of December 23)

<b>1 Australia</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>4 Sri Lanka</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>7 West Indies</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>2 India</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>5 England</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>8 New Zealand</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>3 South Africa</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>6 Pakistan</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9 Bangladesh</b>	<b>0</b>

If South Africa win the third Test next week, they will be a fraction ahead of Australia on 123

Words: Patrick Kidd