

Internal Migration to the Gauteng Province

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Analysing the importance and impact of migration to the Gauteng Province

It's astounding that as the smallest province in South Africa, geographically speaking, Gauteng is the second most populous province, accounting for around one-third of the GDP in 2001 and experiencing population growth by a fifth between the census years of 1996 and 2001.

In addition, it enjoys a far greater share of in-migrants (migrants moving into Gauteng from other provinces) than any of the other 8 provinces, and with the province continuing to be perceived as offering greater job opportunities and an associated improvement in standard of living than most of the other provinces; this trend seems set to continue.

Clearly the allure of the golden province brings with it both challenges and opportunities, and it is the nature and implications of these which are examined in this policy brief.

This policy brief, based on a study, commissioned by the Office of the Premier of the Gauteng Provincial Government in 2004, aims to quantify and assess internal migrants to Gauteng and to assess the impact of such migration to the province, thereby providing insights into phenomenon that are relevant from a governmental policy-making, and at the same time, identifying areas requiring further research.

Differentiating between groups of individuals assessed in the study

Within the study, migrants are categorised as:

Gauteng born migrants (GB) – Or intra-Gauteng migrants, meaning they were born in Gauteng and have migrated within the province.

Non-Gauteng born migrants (NGB) – Or non-Gauteng migrants, meaning that they were born in one of the other eight provinces and have migrated into Gauteng.

It further separates migrants into two distinct groups: **Permanent migrants** – Those who have taken up residency in Gauteng.

Migrant workers – Those who have migrated into Gauteng on a temporary basis for work purposes and intend returning to their sending homes.

This study focuses strongly throughout on the ability of the migrants to support themselves and on the stresses that migration to Gauteng may place in provincial resources.

Defining a pattern by drawing on two sets of data

This study uses data from the following two sources:

Census 2001 – Provides information on “permanent” migrants.

Labour Force Survey (LFS) September 2002 – Offers information on migrant workers.

In order to understand the nature of the study one must take into account that there were several obstacles inherent in the data sets:

The full Census 2001 dataset was not at the disposal of the study team, and the format of the Census questions only allowed for a migrant's most recent move to be tracked, meaning that deeper investigation of migration was not possible.

As concerns the LFS data, this relied completely on information provided by the migrant's sending household, meaning in-depth information is often lacking. In addition, the survey doesn't provide information on status, sector or occupation of migrant workers, and includes only migrants born within South Africa's borders.

*This study therefore presents and explains **patterns** which better illuminate the issue of migration in Gauteng, and point to the strain which migrants are likely to place on the province's current and future public facilities and their influence on social spending, as opposed to relying heavily on **actual figures** to provide purely statistical data.*

Understanding the areas within the Gauteng Province

The province of Gauteng is divided into **three metropolitan municipalities** – Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg and Tshwane – and **three district councils** – Metsweding, Sedibeng and West Rand - as indicated on the map below, ***PLEASE INSERT MAP FIGURE 1 FROM PAGE 5*** with almost 82% of the provincial population residing in the metropolitan municipalities.

About one third of SA-born Gauteng residents were born in one of the other 8 provinces, highlighting again just how strong the pull to Gauteng is.



Source: Municipal Demarcation Board 2004 (<http://www.demarcation.org.za>)

Looking at the characteristics of permanent migrants in Gauteng

As indicated in the opening section, this study concerns itself both with Gauteng-born (GB) and non-Gauteng born (NGB) immigrants. (Only South African born migrants are included.) Since migrants moving within the province of their birth don't exert as great an additional stress on provincial resources as those migrating in from outside the province, it's possible to gain an overview of the additional pressures migrants place in Gauteng by comparing GB and NGB migrants.

When comparing NGB migrants to GB migrants (on the basis of race; age and gender; educational attainment; labour market characteristics; income and disability), NGB migrants:

Are primarily African. Three quarters of NGB migrants are African, just under a fifth are White and the remaining 5.5% are Coloureds and Asians.

Include a greater portion of working age individuals. 65% of GB migrants are of working age compared to 81.8% of NGB migrants. This is indicative of the fact that the majority of migrants move to Gauteng in response to perceived job opportunities.

Males outnumber females by 111:100. Gauteng is the only province in which males outnumber females; which points to the continued demand for labour in heavy industry and mining in Gauteng, and the greater propensity of males to migrate.

Are more commonly less educated than GB migrants and are therefore not raising the overall educational profile of the Gauteng province. *This needs to be considered in conjunction with the point below:*

NGB migrants account for almost half of Gauteng's 590 000 residents with higher education, indicating a valuable gain for the province in term of highly educated individuals.

Have a LOWER rate of unemployment than GB migrants. This may be because higher living costs in Gauteng make it possible for NGB migrants to work for less, among other factors or because if they can't find work they'll simply return to their homes.

Experience a lower unemployment rate compared to individuals from the same sending province remaining in that province. (With the exception of the Western Cape).

Are more likely to be employed in less-skills intensive activities, with a higher proportion of NGB females engaged in

domestic work and a higher proportion of NGB males involved in manufacturing and construction.

Two thirds more NGB migrant males are employed in unskilled jobs than GB males, and twice as many NGB females and GB females.

Generally earn less and are involved in lower paying jobs.

Have a marginally greater number of individuals suffering from sight and hearing disabilities.

Suffer less from intellectual and emotional disabilities. Twice as many GB migrants suffer from these.

Analysing the level of access to public services among permanent migrants

When analysing the individuals' as well as the households' access to electricity, heating and lighting, it becomes apparent that when looking at migrants:

NGB migrants have the lowest access to electricity.

GB migrants have greater access to piped water inside their homes. It's interesting to note that the difference in access to piped water is far more pronounced along racial lines than migrant status.

NGB Migrants have the highest access to cellular phones but the lowest to telephones in their dwellings. **GB migrants** in contrast have the highest access to both cellular and home telephones. NGB migrants and non-migrants all rely heavily on public phones.

Looking at the permanent migrant's standard of living

In discerning the differences in the standard of living of migrants, the study looks at the type or dwelling in which they reside, as well as their access to certain household goods such as television, radio and fridges.

In this respect the study concluded that NGB migrants:

Are less likely to live in formal dwellings. 65% of NGB migrants reside in formal dwellings and 22% in informal settlements; compared to 78% and 15% of GB migrants respectively.

Are overall less likely to own televisions, radios or refrigerators. It's important to note that the propensity for buying household goods increases when individuals relocate to formal dwellings.

Placing migrant labour in Gauteng in the national context

Gauteng is by far the most popular destination for migrant workers, who constitute about 17% of the population, or one in every six of all Gauteng citizens. When looking at inter-provincial migrant workers (those entering Gauteng from one of the other 8 provinces) one sees that Gauteng receives 71.8% of the total number of migrant workers in South Africa as a whole.

Sketching the profile of migrant labourers in Gauteng

As concerns migrant workers in Gauteng, they are:

Predominantly men, outnumbering women by around two to one.

Almost exclusively African, with Africans accounting for 98.8% of migrant workers.

Most often from rural areas, with nearly nine-tenths being from rural households where poverty levels are higher.

Have not acquired a secondary education. Although there aren't a high proportion of individuals with tertiary education, there is also a low proportion of individuals with no education whatsoever, resulting in a smaller difference in the average level of education between migrant labour and non-migrant labour.

On a par with non-migrants as concerns their skill level, meaning that their impact on the skill level of the Gauteng Labour force is negligible.

Often "long-term" migrant workers, with 46.4% of them having been migrant workers in Gauteng for 5 years or more.

Females who have never been married have the highest tendency to be long-term migrant workers.

On average members of larger households. This may be linked to the fact that poorer households are predominantly larger than better off households.

More than half of male migrant workers are married compared to barely one fifth of female migrant workers. This points to the fact that women may migrate to seek

employment if they are widowed, divorced, separated or unwed.

Not likely to leave behind children under the age of 15 in their sending household. The data employed did not provide adequate information on how many children, specifically those of school going age, accompany a migrant parent.

Following the sending of remittances by migrant labourers

When an individual leaves a sending household in search of work, not only is the financial burden on the household lightened by having one less member to provide for, but that member can then contribute to the income of the household in the form of remittances. The study shows that:

R5.9 billion worth of goods and money was remitted to sending households nationally in the 12 month period preceding the 2002 Labour Force Survey, with R2.6 billion of that being sent from Gauteng.

The average individual remittance in Gauteng is lower when compared to remittances sent from other provinces, despite Gauteng having a higher totally percentage overall.

The amount of remittances correspond directly to the inferred skill profile of sending provinces. For example, average remittances are highest to sending households in the Western Cape where the skills profile is higher, possibly indicating that these individuals are capable of higher earnings and consequently higher remittances.

Highlighting the important findings of this study

The Gauteng economy is less likely to be skills constrained than other provinces. Due to the apparent improved employment prospects in Gauteng, the province is able to access a job pool far beyond the province's geographic boundaries.

The province is likely to continue attracting migrants and migrant workers as long as employment conditions within Gauteng appear more favourable and unemployment is lower than in other provinces.

Through remittances migrants creates important economic linkages. Although most remittances are sent in the form of cash, and this technically constitutes a leakage of funds from Gauteng, the money is likely to be spent on goods and services in the sending province, stimulating inter-provincial economic activity and improving the economic position of sending households.

NGB children represent an increased demand for education of around one-third of the demand deriving from Gauteng children. Using an adjustment of a formula applied successfully in the Western Cape, and based on current data, the study indicates that to meet the increased education needs twenty new primary schools and ten new secondary schools would need to be constructed annually.

The burden on healthcare systems is increasing, although it is difficult to derive exact implications from the data. However, if current trends continue, it seems probable that at least 16 new clinics would need to be established annually.

The burden placed on the province by loss of workers may be lowered. The in-migration of skilled workers may lighten the burden placed on the province by the loss of workers in the health and education sectors to emigration and HIV/Aids.

NGB migrants are more likely to access state grants as most effectively support two families and face greater budget constraints.

With even more individuals now requiring housing, the provincial government is like to face important challenge in addressing the existing housing backlog. Provision of piped water and electricity is however relatively good.

NGB migrants are less likely to engage in mass media as they have less access to television and radio. This is an important consideration when developing provincial educational and informative campaigns.

If you would like more information on the information contained in this document, on the specific statistical data, or if you have any queries or questions; please feel free to contact *insert details here*.