

migration & mobility

in the GCR



introduction

The 21st century was a turning point in history, as more people now live in cities than in rural areas.

The GCR has been shaped by in-migration – from the initial gold rush to its present position as Africa’s economic hub – and has a number of advantages over other parts of the country. There is a widespread perception that better work and education opportunities are available here. In comparative perspective, the Gauteng city-region seems to offer higher levels of access to good housing and essential household infrastructures, greater proximity to urban amenities, and generally better standards of living.

As such, it is an ever-growing pole of attraction for migrants from South Africa’s rural areas and other urban centres, as well as immigrants from the continent. Although migration presents a challenge to government to cater for the growing influx of households, the entrance of newcomers also gives it an increasingly afropolitan character and vibrant social and economic life. This in turn adds continuously to its dynamism and attractiveness to opportunity seekers.

population

Gauteng is the smallest province in South Africa with the largest population

According to Statistics South Africa’s (StatsSA) national Community Survey of March 2007, Gauteng had a population of 10 451 719. StatsSA’s 2010 mid-year population estimates indicated that Gauteng currently houses 11 191 700 people, or 22.4% of the total population of South Africa.

After Gauteng, in population terms, the next largest province is KwaZulu-Natal, with 10 645 400 people, or a 21.3% share of the South African population. Gauteng’s population overtook that of KwaZulu-Natal only in 2007. Gauteng is the country’s smallest province, with the largest population.

population estimates per province



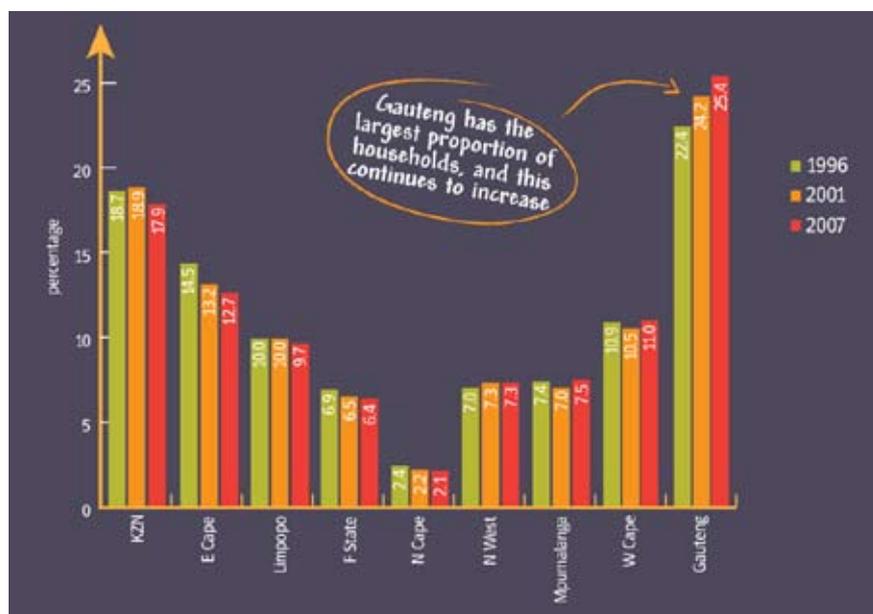
StatsSA (2010) 'Mid-year population estimates'

households

At almost 3,2 million, Gauteng has the largest number of households of any of the provinces in South Africa. It also has the smallest average household size, at an average of 3.3 people per household, compared to a national average of 3.9 per household. The proportion of total national households in Gauteng is increasing, and the average household size is coming down.

The fact that household sizes are decreasing reflects, in part, freedom of movement and the growing black economic base in post-apartheid South Africa.

proportion of total national number of households in each province: 1996, 2001 and 2007



Statistics South Africa, Community Survey (2007)



Statistics South Africa, Community Survey (2007)

population growth

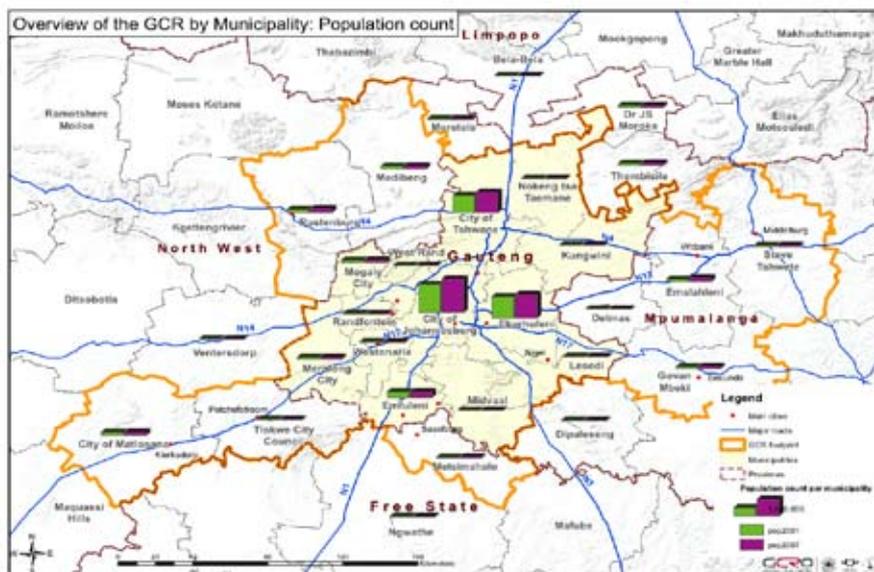
Gauteng is still experiencing rapid population growth

In 1996, Gauteng had a population of 7 348 421. In 2001, the population had grown to 9 389 351. And by 2007, the population was estimated at 10 451 713 (or 10 667 573 when adjusted to include Merafong). The overall population change between 2001 and 2007 was 13.61% (adjusted to include Merafong), just under 2% per year.

The surrounding areas of Rustenburg, Potchestroom, Sasolburg and Witbank/Middelburg/Secunda grew by 19%, while the displaced population in the former homelands to the north east has been growing by only 5%.

This is an indication that population growth in the GCR as a whole is not only fuelled by natural births, but by in-migration to Gauteng and its surrounding areas.

population growth in municipalities across the GCR



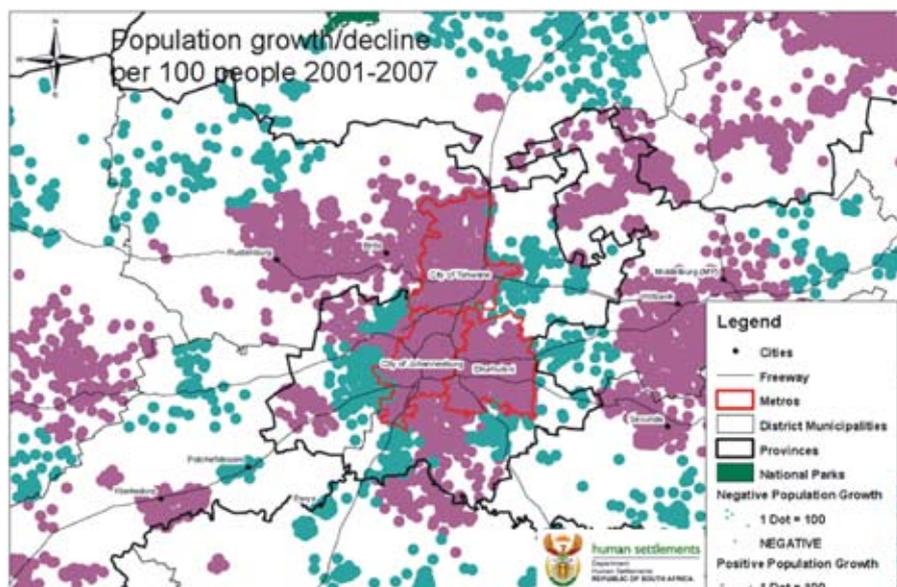
StatsSA (2001) 'Census' and StatsSA (2007) 'Community Survey'

growth across GCR

Population growth is not occurring uniformly within the GCR – as illustrated in the map below, the population is shrinking in some places and bulging in others. The green dots represent negative population growth, the pink dots show positive growth, measured between 2001 and 2007.

This is evidence of the migration of GCR residents from the poorer, less capacitated municipalities on the borders of Gauteng towards the larger metros of Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni.

population growth and decline across the GCR between 2001 and 2007



National Department of Human Settlements (2009)

the allure of Gauteng

what are the main factors driving migration into the GCR?

The primary driver of in-migration into the GCR is the lure of employment and economic opportunities. Measured on the basis of GDP at purchasing power parity, Johannesburg by itself is estimated to have the largest urban economy in Africa, just ahead of Cairo. According to data from www.citymayors.com, the GCR is the largest urban economy on the continent when measured on a purchasing power parity basis. This offers the prospect of finding a job and ‘making it’.

Regional economic, political and security problems also affect migration into Gauteng, as people move in search of the relative security and opportunities they perceive Gauteng can offer.

As Gauteng rolls out services, infrastructure and housing to meet the needs of its growing population, the more people are likely to be attracted and migrate to the province.

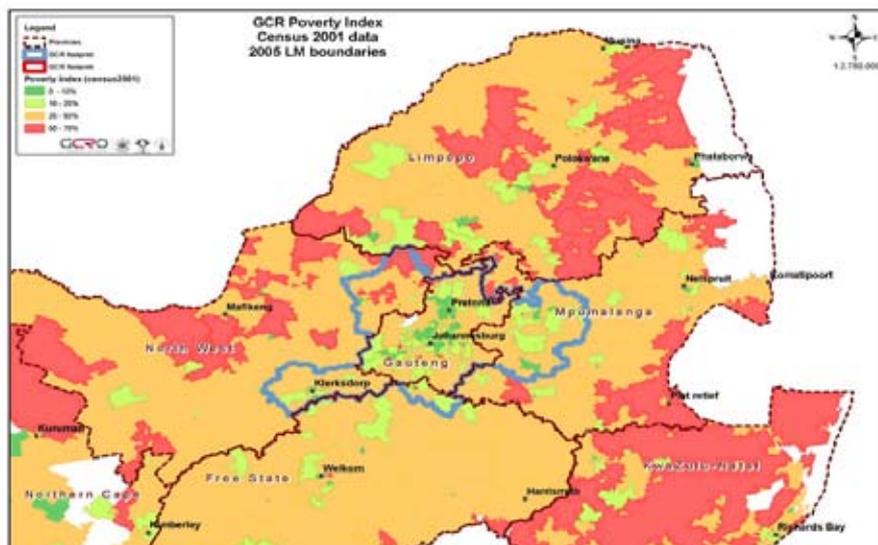
migration ‘pull’ factors



Landau, L. and Gindrey, V. (2009) ‘Gauteng 2055 Trend Paper: Population & Migration’

The map below reinforces the main reasons for in-migration discussed above. The map is based on a 10-part matrix for measuring poverty (proposed by StatsSA in 2001), where areas coloured red are showing high levels of poverty, and areas in green are showing low levels of poverty. As the map makes clear, Gauteng and the broader city-region represent an oasis of prosperity surrounded by poverty. It therefore acts as a major regional magnet, attracting work-seekers from surrounding provinces and countries.

GCR poverty index



GCRO (2010)

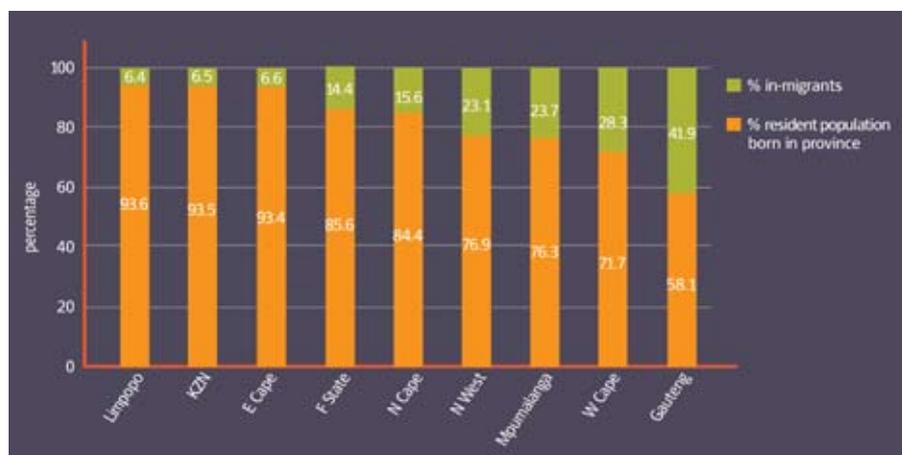
in-migration

contrary to other provinces, Gauteng is shaped by in-migration

The 2007 Community Survey found that just 58.1% of the resident population of Gauteng was actually born in the province, far lower than any comparable province. Seen from the other side, 41.9% of Gauteng residents were not born in Gauteng.

Migration to Gauteng is mainly due to people moving from the provinces within South Africa. According to the 2007 Community Survey, only 14% of the migrant population comes from outside of South Africa.

percentage of residents born in province vs. in-migrants



considering it home

do people who migrate to the city-region consider it home?

According to the GCRO's 2009 'Quality of Life' survey, 20% of respondents were not living in the same dwelling five years ago:

- 9.3% (542) moved into Gauteng within the past five years, with the majority moving from Limpopo (22%), KwaZulu-Natal (13%) and the Eastern Cape (11%). A quarter of the in-migration (25%) occurred from countries outside of South Africa. The majority moved into Johannesburg (37%), followed by Tshwane and Ekurhuleni (both at 23%). The immigrants were mostly in the young age group of 18-35 (79%), with the largest migration occurring in 2007 (29%), as economic conditions worsened in South Africa and globally.
- Almost 11% of respondents to the 'Quality of Life' survey moved within Gauteng in the past five years, with most of the movement occurring within and between the main metros of Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni, highlighting the fact that these metros are the hub of the GCR economy and labour force.

As Gauteng is a city-region of constantly evolving population and in-migration, the question may be asked – who considers Gauteng to be home?



GCRO (2009) 'Quality of Life' survey

However, the idea of Gauteng as a temporary place of residence to earn an income before returning home is indicated by the fact that only 71% of the 'Quality of Life' survey respondents' families live in Gauteng.

domestic tourism

domestic tourism – most people travel to Gauteng to visit friends and family

number of most recent person trips to Gauteng in the six months prior to the survey by main purpose of visit



Stats SA (2008) 'Domestic Tourism Survey'
(due to rounding up % may not add up to 100)

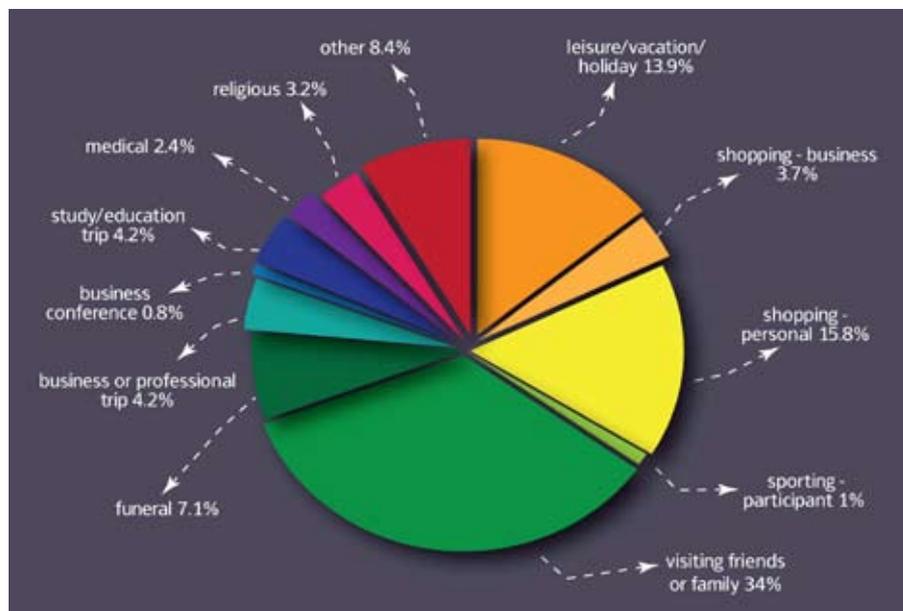
South Africa's first domestic tourism survey, conducted by StatsSA in August 2008, measured day and overnight trips taken in the period February to July 2008, and provides an indication of the domestic flow of people within the country.

Gauteng was the main destination for day trips in the country (24.4%) followed by Kwazulu-Natal with 17.7%. Day trips to and from Gauteng indicate a strong flow of people between Gauteng and the North West province, followed by Gauteng-Mpumulanga and Gauteng-Limpopo. The main purpose of day visits to and within Gauteng is to visit friends and family (34%), followed by personal shopping (16%) and leisure (14%).

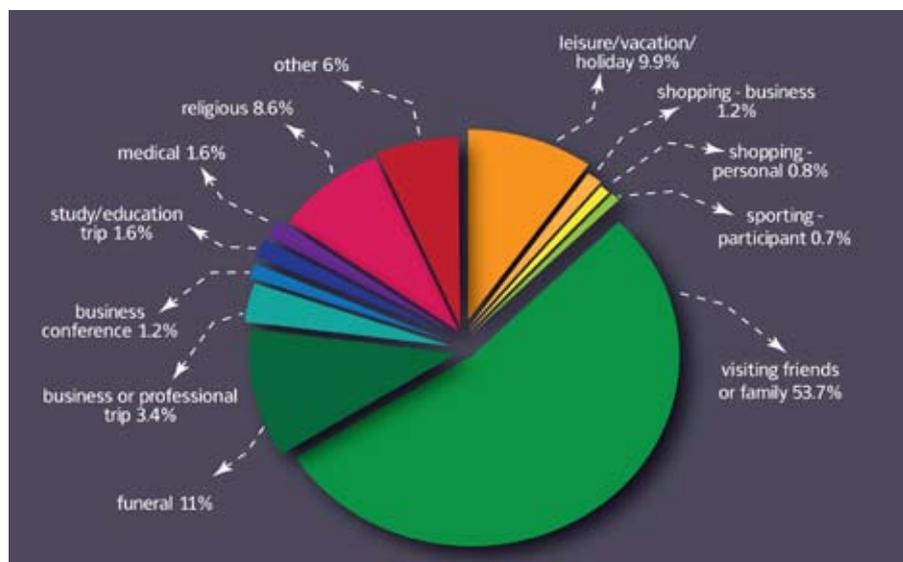
For overnight trips the pattern is reversed, with Kwazulu-Natal the main destination (22.7%), followed by Gauteng with 15.8%. The highest number of people travelling and staying overnight occurs between Limpopo and Gauteng, followed by Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng. The main purpose of overnight visits to and within Gauteng is primarily to visit friends and family (53%), followed by attending funerals (11%) and for leisure purposes (10%).

number of most recent person trips to Gauteng in the six months prior to the survey by main purpose of visit

day trips



overnight trips



StatsSA (2008) 'Domestic Tourism Survey'
 (due to rounding up, percentages may not add up to 100)

cross-border shopping

Cross-border shoppers from the SADC region come to Gauteng for short periods of time, with shopping as their main purpose of travel.

Their activities range from the purchase of low-end consumer goods for use by friends and family in their home countries, to entrepreneurial buying of crafted and manufactured goods for resale in their home countries and South Africa.

Cross-border shopping is a significant social and economic phenomenon – visitors from African countries contributed the largest proportion of total foreign direct spend in 2005, contributing R12.1-billion, with each shopper spending R52 000 per year.

ComMark Trust (2008) 'Giving Development a Face'

Did you know

The informal nature of much of this trade belies the collective spending power of these shoppers and traders, and the large amounts of goods crossing South Africa's borders every day.

some bus service stations offer dormitory-style accommodation with the **room price included in the bus fare**

