

Population movement in the Gauteng city region

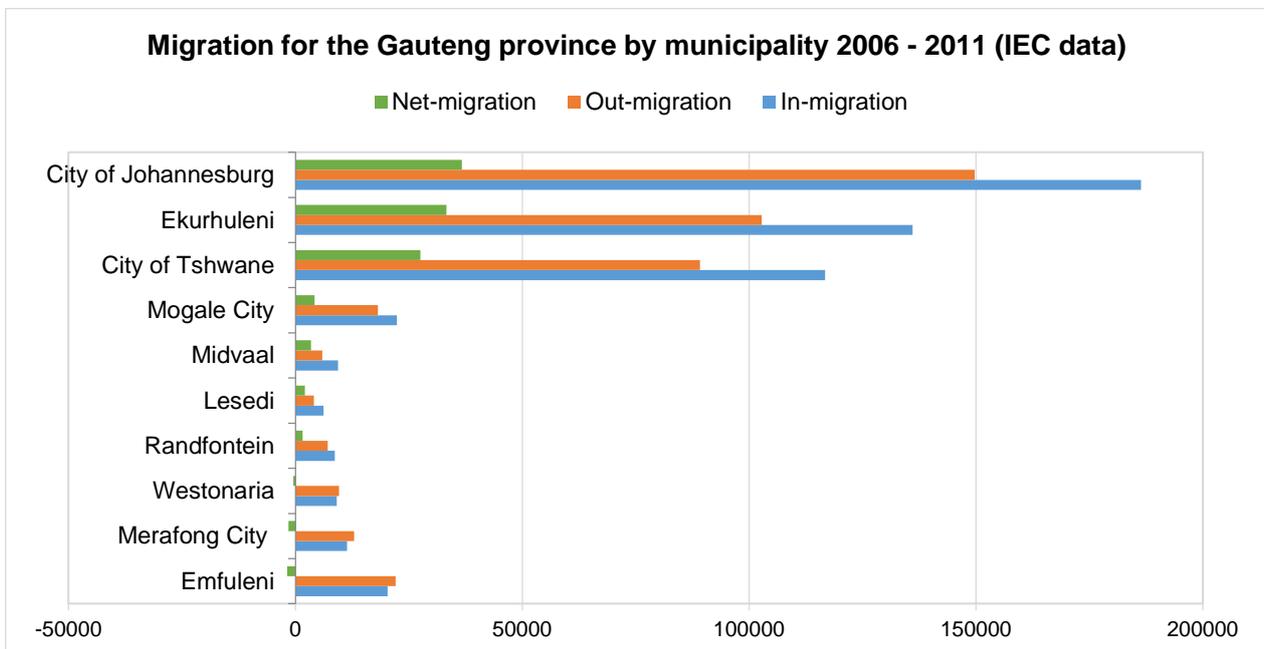
Amy Pieterse
CSIR, Built Environment

Date: June 2015

For more information contact apieterse@csir.co.za

Citation: Pieterse, A. 2015. *Population movement in the Gauteng city region*. CSIR document. Available on www.stepsa.org

Urban regions and city regions in particular see the highest migration volumes in the country. There are large volumes of people moving to and from the city regions. It is understood that a large proportion of movement is also taking place between and within the city regions of South Africa. To address urbanisation implications it is imperative to better understand some of the assumptions about the nature and dynamics of population change and internal migration across the South African landscape, and in particular within the Gauteng city region as the largest of the city regions.

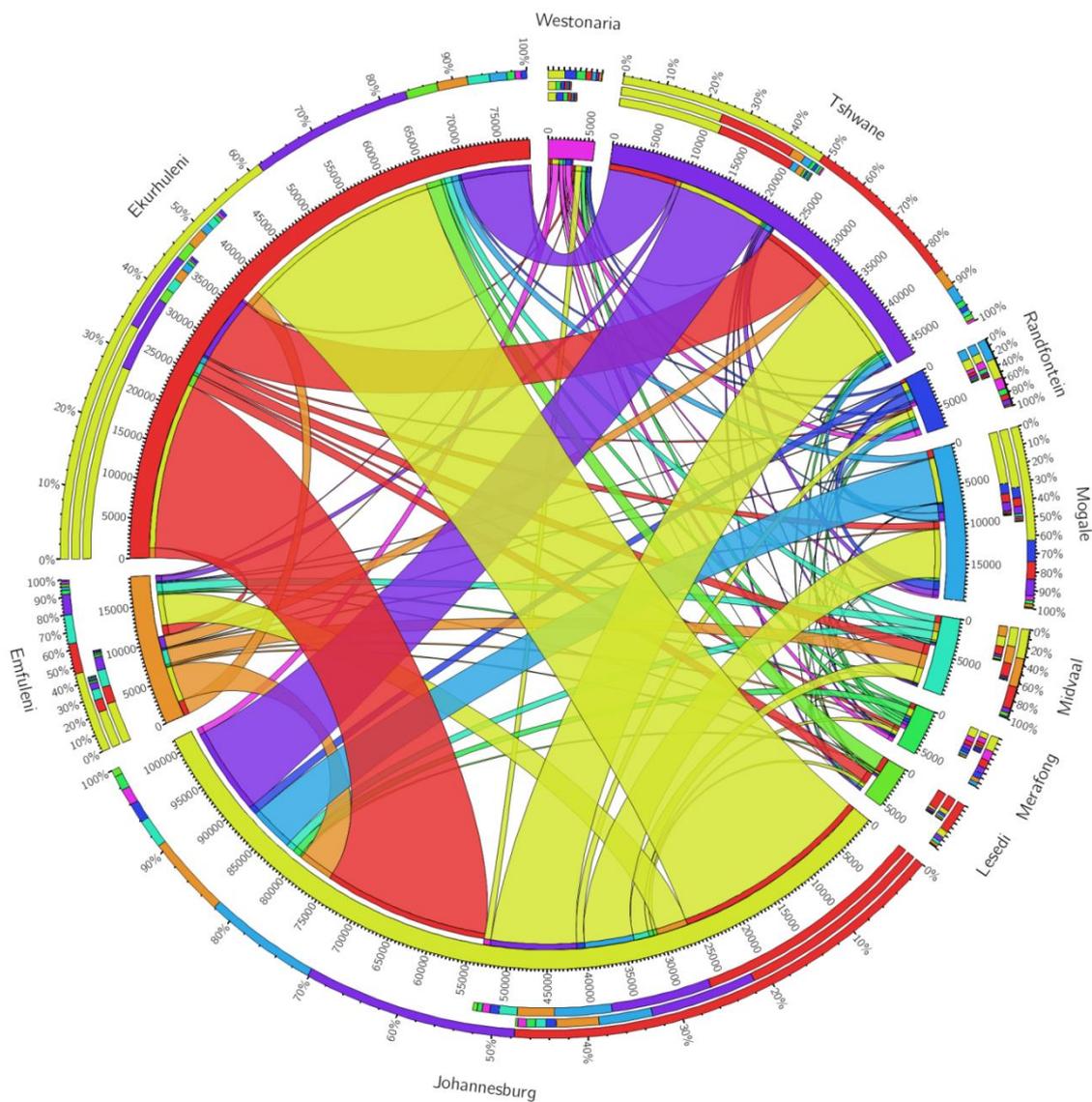


When looking at inter-municipal migration related to Gauteng between 2006 and 2011 using the IEC data it is clear that the province had a notable net gain of population because of in-migration to the province. Only Emfuleni, Westonaria and Merafong City saw a net loss due to migration, albeit very small. The City of



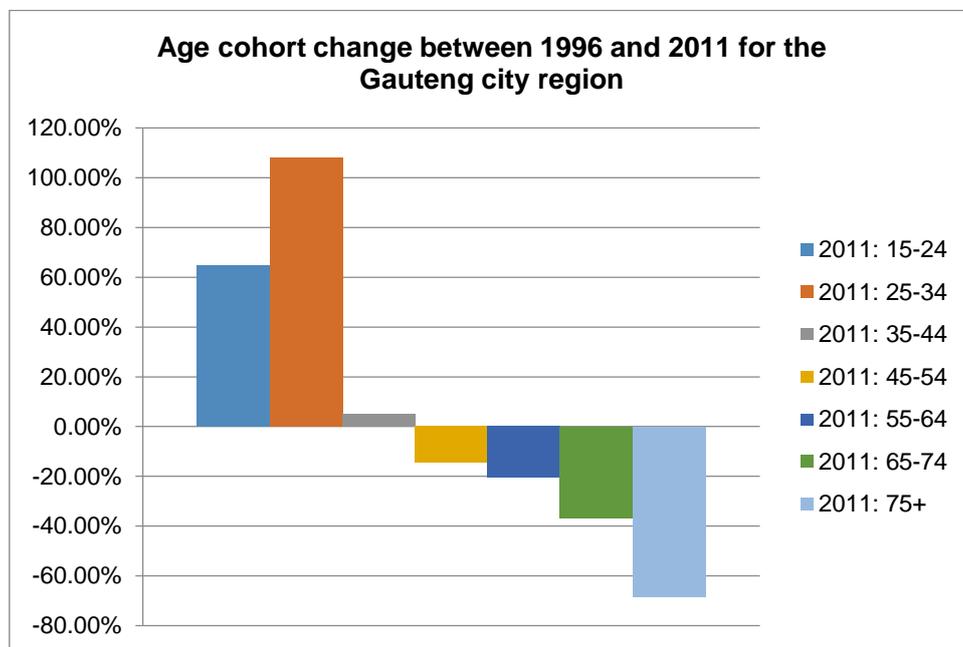
Johannesburg saw the greatest positive net migration, followed closely by Ekurhuleni Metro and City of Tshwane (Pieterse et al. 2015).

The figure below illustrates inter-municipal migration trends for the Gauteng municipalities based on IEC data for the period between 2006 and 2011. The diagram excludes migration from and to other municipalities outside the province; therefore intra-provincial migration is shown. Migration flows touch the outer ring of municipality of origin and the flow lines stop short of municipality of destination. The flow volumes are represented by the extent and numbering of the outer ring. The proportion of in-flowing volumes per municipality is also represented. There is significant movement between the City of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni with almost 62% of all in-migration to Ekurhuleni being from the City of Johannesburg and close to 48% of in-migration to the City of Johannesburg coming from Ekurhuleni. The flow of persons between the City of Tshwane and the City of Johannesburg is also substantial (Pieterse et al. 2015).





The figure below illustrates, specifically for the Gauteng city region, the percentage change in the population for each age cohort in a different colour using the 1996 age cohort as the baseline. This data is based on the 1996 and 2011 Census. The height of the bar indicates the percentage change over the 15 year period from 1996 to 2011. The Gauteng city region has seen a significant growth in the Young Adult Seekers cohort, meaning people who were 10-19 years old in 1996, and 25-34 years old in 2011, have increased by over 100%. Growth of this age cohort has occurred at a significant rate, higher than would be expected in terms of natural growth, indicating a high rate of in-migration. The 1996 age cohort of 0-9 (15-24 years Entrants in 2011) also increased considerably with a 65% positive change. It seems to be that the city regions, the cities and the rural areas are the places from which these groups are originating (Pieterse et al. 2014). The proportion of people over 50 years in 1996 and over 65 years in 2011, have declined significantly for the Gauteng city region. This shows that the city region mostly attract younger people (Pieterse et al. 2014).



The Gauteng city region is a popular destination for migrants from all over the country and the Gauteng population also is highly mobile. It is clear that the people who are moving to Gauteng are increasingly young, while out-migrants are largely over 50 years. When a population is a mobile as the population of the Gauteng region, it is especially important to study these population changes and movement trend. These trends raise other questions around the ability of the city region to absorb in-moving migrant, the extent of circular migration and the effect of changing household sizes.



Sources used

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Contributors and acknowledgements

The teams involved the research on which this work is based (referenced above)

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) – supplied voter registration data for various election periods