

# THE TRENDS AND DETERMINANTS OF PROVINCIAL IN-MIGRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

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## **Abstract**

South Africa is one of the countries in the African continent that receives the highest number of international migrants and domestic migrants. The trend of in-migration has been at an increase after the government removed the apartheid policies and laws which restricted the population to move within the borders of the country. However, push and pull factors influence individuals decisions to migrate to the place of destination. With recent statistics, the majority of the population is migrating to provinces such as Gauteng and Western Cape as there are better employment opportunities and better standard of living. The main aim of this study is to analyse the trends and determinants of in-migration in South Africa. The study made use of secondary data obtained by Statistics South Africa from Census 2001 and 2011. The study included individuals residing in South within the age groups 15-64. The research study conducted various analysis.

**Keywords:** South Africa, in-migration, pull and push factors, migrant, urbanisation

## **Background**

Migration is one of the important components of population growth along with the other two components being fertility and mortality. However, a migrant is a person who moves from one specified area to another. This person has to cross a boundary and stay in the place of destination (also known as the receiving area) for a minimum specified time. Given that the boundary crossed is internal or within a district, then this type of movement is referred to as internal migration and the person involved an internal migrant. On the other hand, when the national boundaries of the country are crossed this is as a result of the person leaving the area of origin (also known as the sending area) and this move is called emigration and the person involved an emigrant. Furthermore, an individual that enters from another country is called an immigrant and this type of movement is referred to as immigration (Simelane, 1999:3).

South Africa is amongst the top positions in terms of the region's economy as it receives an influx of international migrants and domestic migrants as this will lead to high levels of migration. Urbanisation plays an important role in the country and it is driven by the pull factors, this includes the economic and employment opportunities offered in the country

(Ginsburg et al, 2016:143). Furthermore, South Africa is experiencing high levels of in-migration as there are more individuals migrating to different provinces such as Gauteng and Western Cape. Recent studies conducted by Stats SA show that Gauteng and Western Cape recorded the highest number of in-migrants for the period 2016 to 2021 .For the period 2016-2021 Gauteng received 1 564 861 in-migrants and whereas Western Cape received 470 657 in-migrants (Stats SA, 2021).

Therefore, people migrate for a number of reasons. The decision to migrate is influenced by push and pull factors. Push factors are those factors that influence the individual to leave the area of origin voluntarily such as famine and conflict. Pull factors are those factors that attract the individual to the place of destination such as better standard of living and better economic opportunities (Eigeelar-Meets, 2018:21). In South Africa, thirteen percent of the youth from the age group 20-24 are graduates and Stats SA found that in different provinces that are surrounded by more rural areas are disadvantaged and have a lower rate of graduates and this is influenced by a number of factors and migration (Stats SA, 2018).

There are many issues associated with the increase of internal migration in South Africa. This is as a result of the uncontrolled number of migrants moving to different provinces in South Africa . The growing patterns of internal migration led to many social issues in the form of an increase in the demand for social services and the increase in population density which led to lack of infrastructure, high levels of unemployment, lack of food and an increase in morbidity levels as a result of environmental degradation. Therefore, these social problems are still prevalent in the country as internal migration increased since post 1994 and it has been estimated that in the year 2050 eighty percent of South Africa's population will reside in urban areas (Ntshidi, 2017:3).

Furthermore, the economic effect of in-migration differs in all countries. In South Africa, the effect that migration has on the economy is that it leads to an increase in the costs given by the government and as a result the government has to increase its budgets so that it can improve the services in all provinces. Overcrowding is another factor that has an impact on the economy because when there is an influx of domestic migrants moving to different provinces this puts pressure on the limited resources and this can also lead to a quick spread in the transmission of diseases within the population in all the provinces (Solomon, 1994:65). The records of migrants moving to different provinces in South Africa should be updated in the system and if such concerns are not rectified this will lead to an increase in criminal activities and the undermining of laws and regulations in the province. Accordingly, this research study will fill in the gap by

examining the trends and determinants of provincial in-migration in South Africa and examine the factors that influence in-migration. In this regard, the study will look at demographic and socio-economic factors.

### **Research Aims**

The main aim of this research study is to analyse the trends and determinants of provincial in-migration in South Africa.

### **Specific Objectives**

This research study entails three specific objectives

- To determine the in-migration status in South Africa for the period 2001- 2011
- To establish the socio economic and demographic characteristics of in-migrants in South Africa
- To assess the demographic and socio-economic factors that influence in-migration in South Africa for the period 2001-2011

### **Research Questions**

- What was the in-migration status for the period 2001- 2011?
- What are the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population of South Africa?
- What were the demographic and socio-economic factors that influenced in- migration in South Africa in 2001- 2011?

### **Methodology**

Secondary data from Census 2001 and 2011 10% sample was used and it was collected by Statistics South Africa. A stratified sampling method was used and the study population focused on people residing in South Africa within the age groups 15-64. The exclusion criteria: no South Africans, South Africans who were born outside South Africa and the population below 15 and above 64. The study made use of SPSS software. There are three methods of analysis that were used namely; univariate analysis, bivariate analysis and multivariate analysis.

### **Data collection methods and tools**

The enumerators were trained on how they should conduct the interviews and complete the questionnaires. During the enumeration phase, the enumerators conducted face to face interviews while at the same time filling in the questionnaires. However, there were respondents who preferred to complete the questionnaire by themselves then once they are done with the questionnaire the enumerator will come for collection. Census 2001 and Census 2011 made use of questionnaires as it was the tool used to collect data.

### **Dependent variable**

There is only one dependent variable in this study which is in-migration status. Respondents enumerated in the census were asked the following question: “Has (name) been living in this place since October 2001?” The appropriate responses were yes and no. Respondents who answered yes were in-migrants and those who answered no were non-migrant.

### **Independent variable**

This study consists of nine independent variables namely; age, sex, population group, marital status, level of education, employment status, income level and geography type.

### **Limitations of the study**

Firstly, there are difficulties in obtaining reliable data on migration as census is only conducted after 10 years. However, the difficulties in obtaining quality data on migration can misrepresent the analysis and this will further create challenges when one is analyzing data (Stats SA, 2011). The second limitation is on the data obtained by census whereby many questions were left unattended to and as a result the responses were either not applicable or unspecified. These responses have an effect on the sample size whereby when these responses are removed the sample size decreases. Furthermore, another major limitation is that census only collects information on the last move (the last move usually takes place before census begins) and thus excludes any travelling that took place either before the current move or last move. This further shows that data collected by census on migration belittles the movement of people (Stats SA, 2011).

### **Findings**

The background characteristics of the population of South Africa indicates that the majority of the population in 2001 is between the age group 15-19 (17,8%) and in 2011 the population aged 15-19 decreased to 14,7%. However, in 2011 the majority of the population is between the age group 20-24 (15,7%). The results further show that the majority of the population were females with a percentage of 53,2% in 2001 and 51,6% in 2011 and whereas 46,8% of the population

were males in 2001 and in 2011 48,4% were males. The prevalence of in-migration has increased from 14, 9% in 2001 to 23,5% in 2011. However, there was a significant relationship between the socio-economic and demographic factors and in-migration status for the period 2001-2011 (p-value=0,000). The multivariate analysis showed that people who are within the age groups of 25-29 are 1,245 more likely to migrate in 2001 and 1,176 more likely to migrate in 2011. With regards to sex, the female population is 1,121 more likely to migrate in 2001 and 1,081 more likely to migrate in 2011. Furthermore, factors such as population group, marital status, employment status, number of household members, province and geography type are significant to in-migration status.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by the characteristics of the Population of South Africa**

	2001		2011	
Variable	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<b>In-migration Status</b>				
Non migrants	23130785	85,1	25399868	76,5
In-migrants	4054409	14,9	7814002	23,5
<b>Age group</b>				
15-19	4839123	17,8	4893464	14,7
20-24	4104829	15,1	5209692	15,7
25-29	3750035	13,8	4946249	14,9
30-34	3197923	11,8	3951666	11,9
35-39	2953662	10,9	3412266	10,3
40-44	2511902	9,2	2900243	8,7
45-49	2018657	7,4	2577338	7,8
50-54	1591626	5,9	2184107	6,6
55-59	1170710	4,3	1771524	5,3
60-64	1046728	3,9	1367322	4,1
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	12733557	46,8	16084278	48,4
Female	14451637	53,2	17129592	51,6

<b><i>Population group</i></b>				
Black African	20942094	77,0	25967917	78,7
Coloured	2530850	9,3	3024309	9,2
Indian or Asian	795250	2,9	925346	2,8
White	2917001	10,7	3092781	9,4
<b><i>Marital status</i></b>				
Never married	14092074	51,8	17806953	53,6
Married	9165708	33,7	10247221	30,9
Cohabiting	2252612	8,3	3458756	10,4
Separated	285689	1,1	282093	0,8
Divorced	493982	1,8	513302	1,5
Widowed	895129	3,3	905546	2,7
<b><i>Level of education</i></b>				
No education	3562858	13,1	1866618	5,6
Primary	6315704	23,2	5202392	15,7
Secondary	15290646	56,2	22400741	67,7
Higher	2015986	7,4	3640649	11,0
<b><i>Official employment status</i></b>				
Employed	9036890	33,2	13174287	39,7
Unemployed	6690662	24,6	8762325	26,4
Not economically active	11457642	42,1	11277258	34,0
<b><i>Number of household members</i></b>				
1 member	1635593	6,0	3519093	10,6
2-3 members	6809383	25,0	9440812	28,4
4-5 members	8214846	30,2	9833627	29,6
6+ members	10525372	38,7	10420338	31,4
<b><i>Province</i></b>				

Western Cape	2939299	10,8	3898100	11,7
Eastern Cape	3577318	13,2	3866159	11,6
Northern Cape	496107	1,8	721165	2,2
Free State	1685019	6,2	1735592	5,2
Kwa-Zulu Natal	5539317	20,4	6386165	19,2
North West	2234368	8,2	2223593	6,7
Gauteng	6122878	22,5	8658564	26,1
Mpumalanga	1811449	6,7	2552318	7,7
Limpopo	2779438	10,2	3172214	9,6
<b><i>Geography type</i></b>				
Urban	16744327	61,6	22086644	66,5
Rural	10440867	38,4	11127226	33,5
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	27185194	100,0	33213870	100,0

## Bivariate analysis

**Table 2: Percentage of internal migration since 1996 and 2001 by socio economic and demographic characteristics of migrants in South Africa**

Variables	Migration Status (2001)					Migration Status (2011)				
	Non-migrants	In-migrants	Total	Chi-square	P-Value	Non-migrants	In-migrants	Total	Chi-square	P-value
<b><i>Age group</i></b>				399533.697	0,000				1068843.607	0,000
15-19	89,7%	10,3%	4839123			84,9%	15,1%	4893464		
20-24	82,6%	17,4%	4104829			73,8%	26,2%	5209692		
25-29	78,8%	21,2%	3750035			67,3%	32,7%	4946249		
30-34	80,2%	19,8%	3197923			67,2%	32,8%	3951666		

35-39	83,6%	16,4%	2953662			71,2 %	28,8 %	3412266		
40-44	86,5%	13,5%	2511902			76,9 %	23,1 %	2900243		
45-49	88,7%	11,3%	2018657			82,2 %	17,8 %	2577338		
50-54	89,9%	10,1%	1591626			85,7 %	14,3 %	2184107		
55-59	90,5%	9,5%	1170710			87,4 %	12,6 %	1771524		
60-64	91,4%	8,6%	1046728			88,6 %	11,4 %	1367322		
<b>Sex</b>				979.888	0,000				34861.0 32	0,000
Male	84,9%	15,1%	1273355 7			75,1 %	24,9 %	1608427 8		
Female	85,3%	14,7%	1445163 7			77,8 %	22,2 %	1712959 2		
<b>Popula tion group</b>				524002.1 17	0,000				806268. 845	0,000
Black African	86,9%	13,1%	2094209 4			78,7 %	21,3 %	2596791 7		
Colour ed	86,1%	13,9%	2530850			82,3 %	17,7 %	3024309		
Indian or Asian	85,3%	14,7%	795250			70,9 %	29,1 %	925346		
White	70,9%	29,1%	2917001			56,9 %	43,1 %	3092781		
<b>Marital status</b>				245644.9 94	0,000				553552. 821	0,000
Never married	87,4%	12,6%	1409207 4			80,5 %	19,5 %	1780695 3		
Marrie d	83,4%	16,6%	9165708			72,3 %	27,7 %	1024722 1		
Cohabit ing	76,9%	23,1%	2252612			66,0 %	34,0 %	3458756		
Separat ed	85,0%	15,0%	285689			80,2 %	19,8 %	282093		
Divorc ed	77,8%	22,2%	493982			68,7 %	31,3 %	513302		
Widow ed	91,0%	9,0%	895129			87,7 %	12,3 %	905546		



<b>Level of education</b>				507931.341	0,000				1011109.971	0,000
No education	92,1%	7,9%	3562858			87,3%	12,7%	1866618		
Primary	88,6%	11,4%	6315704			84,4%	15,6%	5202392		
Secondary	83,8%	16,2%	15290646			76,8%	23,2%	22400741		
Higher	71,6%	28,4%	2015986			57,8%	42,2%	3640649		
<b>Official employment status</b>				481304.009	0,000				147445.5312	0.000
Employed	78,6%	21,4%	9036890			65,7%	34,3%	13174287		
Unemployed	86,3%	13,7%	6690662			81,1%	18,9%	8762325		
Not economically active	89,5%	10,5%	11457642			85,5%	14,5%	11277258		
<b>Number of household members</b>				1172642.905	0,000				228852.3.220	0.000
1 member	70,9%	29,1%	1635593			58,0%	42,0%	3519093		
2-3 members	76,2%	23,8%	6809383			66,3%	33,7%	9440812		
4-5 members	85,4%	14,6%	8214846			78,6%	21,4%	9833627		
6+ members	92,8%	7,2%	10525372			89,9%	10,1%	10420338		
<b>Province</b>				673585.645	0,000				155816.6.724	0.000
Western Cape	79,3%	20,7%	2939299			71,1%	28,9%	3898100		

Eastern Cape	89,6%	10,4%	3577318			84,9 %	15,1 %	3866159		
Northern Cape	83,2%	16,8%	496107			79,7 %	20,3 %	721165		
Free State	84,6%	15,4%	1685019			83,5 %	16,5 %	1735592		
Kwa-Zulu Natal	90,0%	10,0%	5539317			84,7 %	15,3 %	6386165		
North West	86,9%	13,1%	2234368			77,4 %	22,6 %	2223593		
Gauteng	76,8%	23,2%	6122878			62,8 %	37,2 %	8658562		
Mpumalanga	87,7%	12,3%	1811449			82,4 %	17,6 %	2552318		
Limpopo	91,3%	8,7%	2779438			83,7 %	16,3 %	3172214		
<b>Geography type</b>				662359.207	0,000				1434150.248	0.000
Urban	80,7%	19,3%	16744327			70,2 %	29,8 %	22086644		
Rural	92,1%	7,9%	10440867			88,9 %	11,1 %	11127226		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,1%</b>	<b>14,9%</b>	<b>27185194</b>			<b>76,5 %</b>	<b>23,5 %</b>	<b>33213870</b>		

## Logistic Regression

Table 3 presents the results for logistic regression showing the relationship between the independent variables and in-migration status.

**Table 3: Results from the multivariate analysis**

	2001				2011			
	95% CI				95% CI			
Variables	Odds Ratio	LB	UB	Significance	Odds Ratio	LB	UB	Significance
<b>Age group</b>								
15-19 ®	1,000				1,000			
20-24	1,245	1,239	1,250	0,000	1,176	1,171	1,180	0,000
25-29	1,099	1,094	1,104	0,000	1,059	1,055	1,063	0,000

30-34	0,861	0,857	0,866	0,000	0,873	0,869	0,876	0,000
35-39	0,669	0,666	0,673	0,000	0,668	0,665	0,671	0,000
40-44	0,517	0,514	0,520	0,000	0,470	0,468	0,472	0,000
45-49	0,413	0,410	0,415	0,000	0,332	0,330	0,334	0,000
50-54	0,352	0,350	0,355	0,000	0,244	0,243	0,245	0,000
55-59	0,323	0,320	0,325	0,000	0,210	0,209	0,211	0,000
60-64	0,329	0,326	0,331	0,000	0,201	0,200	0,202	0,000
<b>Sex(I)</b>								
Male®	1,000				1,000			
Female	1,121	1,118	1,123	0,000	1,081	1,079	1,083	0,000
<b>Population group</b>								
Black African ®	1,000				1,000			
Coloured	0,754	0,750	0,757	0,000	0,641	0,638	0,643	0,000
Indian or Asian	0,945	0,938	0,951	0,000	1,191	1,185	1,197	0,000
White	1,517	1,512	1,523	0,000	1,640	1,635	1,645	0,000
<b>Marital Status</b>								
Never married ®	1,000				1,000			
Married	1,641	1,636	1,646	0,000	1,955	1,951	1,960	0,000
Cohabiting	1,905	1,898	1,913	0,000	2,060	2,054	2,067	0,000
Separated	1,515	1,498	1,532	0,000	1,362	1,348	1,376	0,000
Divorce	1,677	1,664	1,690	0,000	1,829	1,816	1,841	0,000
Widowed	1,293	1,282	1,303	0,000	1,347	1,338	1,357	0,000
<b>Level of education</b>								

No education ®	1,000				1,000			
Primary	1,175	1,169	1,181	0,000	0,996	0,991	1,002	0,198
Secondary	1,231	1,225	1,236	0,000	0,973	0,968	0,978	0,000
Higher	1,691	1,682	1,701	0,000	1,489	1,481	1,497	0,000
<b>Official employment status</b>								
Employed ®	1,000				1,000			
Unemployed	0,788	0,786	0,790	0,000	0,622	0,620	0,623	0,000
Not economically active	0,741	0,739	0,744	0,000	0,577	0,575	0,578	0,000
<b>Number of household members</b>								
1 member ®	1,000				1,000			
2-3 members	0,561	0,558	0,563	0,000	0,546	0,545	0,548	0,000
4-5 members	0,337	0,336	0,339	0,000	0,322	0,321	0,323	0,000
6+ members	0,206	0,205	0,207	0,000	0,185	0,185	0,186	0,000
<b>Province</b>								
Western Cape ®	1,000				1,000			
Eastern Cape	0,638	0,635	0,641	0,000	0,632	0,630	0,635	0,000
Northern Cape	0,923	0,916	0,931	0,000	0,803	0,798	0,809	0,000
Free State	0,707	0,703	0,711	0,000	0,443	0,440	0,445	0,000
Kwa-Zulu Natal	0,574	0,571	0,576	0,000	0,586	0,583	0,588	0,000
North West	0,755	0,751	0,759	0,000	0,925	0,921	0,930	0,000
Gauteng	0,899	0,895	0,903	0,000	1,071	1,067	1,074	0,000

Mpumalanga	0,692	0,688	0,696	0,000	0,661	0,658	0,664	0,000
Limpopo	0,609	0,606	0,613	0,000	0,811	0,807	0,814	0,000
<b><i>Geography type</i></b>								
Urban ®	1,000				1,000			
Rural	0,572	0,570	0,573	0,000	0,474	0,473	0,475	0,000
<b>Constant</b>	0,650				1,470			

## Discussion

This research study examined the trends of in-migration status in South Africa for the period 2001-2011. The findings from the study show that there has been an increase in-migration within the ten year period. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics were identified and all variables in this study have a significant relationship. There are various factors that influenced in-migration. These factors will further be explained in this section.

Findings from the study show that people who are within the age groups of 25-29 have the highest number of in migrants. The study by Ngobeni (2014) found that individuals aged 25-29 are more likely to migrate within the provinces in South Africa. Furthermore, migration is high among individuals who are aged 25-29 as they are part of the economically active population and the reason to migrate is as a result of the employment opportunities offered in the place of destination.

The study findings show that sex is associated with in-migration status. The results from the study further show that males are more likely to migrate but there have been changes in the patterns of in-migration whereby there seems to an increase in the number of female migrants as compared to 2001. The study by Ntshidi (2017:54) found different findings compared to this research study, the findings by Ntshidi (2017) show there was a high number of female in-migrants as compared to males and this is as a result of female empowerment that can be achieved by giving women opportunities to participate in the labour force.

Education is another factor that drives individuals to migrate to the place of destination. The findings in this study highlighted that most in-migrants have obtained a higher education. However, an increase in educational attainment can influence migrants decision to migrate to

the place of destination in search for better employment opportunities which can lead to better salary (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016:23).

The study further found that individuals who are employed are more likely to migrate to the place of destination. The study by Ngobeni (2014) found that in-migration is high among individuals who are employed. Furthermore, individuals who come from areas where there is high unemployment are more likely to migrate to developed provinces because of the opportunities offered in the place of destination.

The results from the bivariate and multivariate analysis differ. The findings from the bivariate show that the majority of in-migrants within the period 2001-2011 migrated with only one family member as compared to the other groups and whereas the findings from logistic regression found that individuals with one family member are less likely to migrate.

The findings from the study show that provinces such as Gauteng receive the highest number of in-migrants as compared to the other provinces. Gauteng is a province that attracts many migrants as a result it offers better economic and employment opportunities as well as better standard of living.

The study found that there is a high number of in-migrants moving to urban areas in South Africa. The study by Ntshidi (2017) shows that there has been an increase in the patterns of migration from rural to urban areas for the period of 2001 -2011.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

There is a statistically significant relationship between the demographic, socio-economic factors and in-migration status. There is a statistically significant relationship between the demographic, socio-economic factors and in-migration status. The aim of this study was to observe the trends and determinants of in-migration status in South Africa. The study found that there has been an increase in in-migration during the ten year period. This further shows that as a result of the end in the apartheid era and removal of the apartheid policies all population groups and all sexes were given the opportunity to migrate to any province in the country. The findings from the study show that in-migrants have the following characteristics , they are within the young adult age group, employed and have obtained a higher qualification (Masters Degree or PhD). The increase in in-migrants in the receiving area poses a number of challenges such as overcrowding living conditions, pressure is put on the limited available(such as

education, healthcare facilities and infrastructure) that accommodate the usual residents in the place of destination. The findings in this study will assist the government to implement new systems and policies that will control the rate of in-migration within the provinces.

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