



Urban and Settlement Growth in South Africa 1996-2011

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Introduction

The average annual population growth rate for 1996 to 2011 for the South African population as a whole was estimated as a mere 1.85% (based on linear calculation of average growth for periods 1996-2001/2001-2011/1996-2011). For cities and larger towns (using the SIR/SACN Typology as basis for calculation) the average growth rate was calculated as 2.87%, pointing to ongoing trends of population concentration. Even though this is a relative slow rate, a trend of concentration is clearly evident. The population estimated to be living within or within a 20km distance from city regions, cities and towns in South Africa continued to increase steadily from 82% in 1996 to 83% in 2001 and to 86% in 2011.

Brief Description

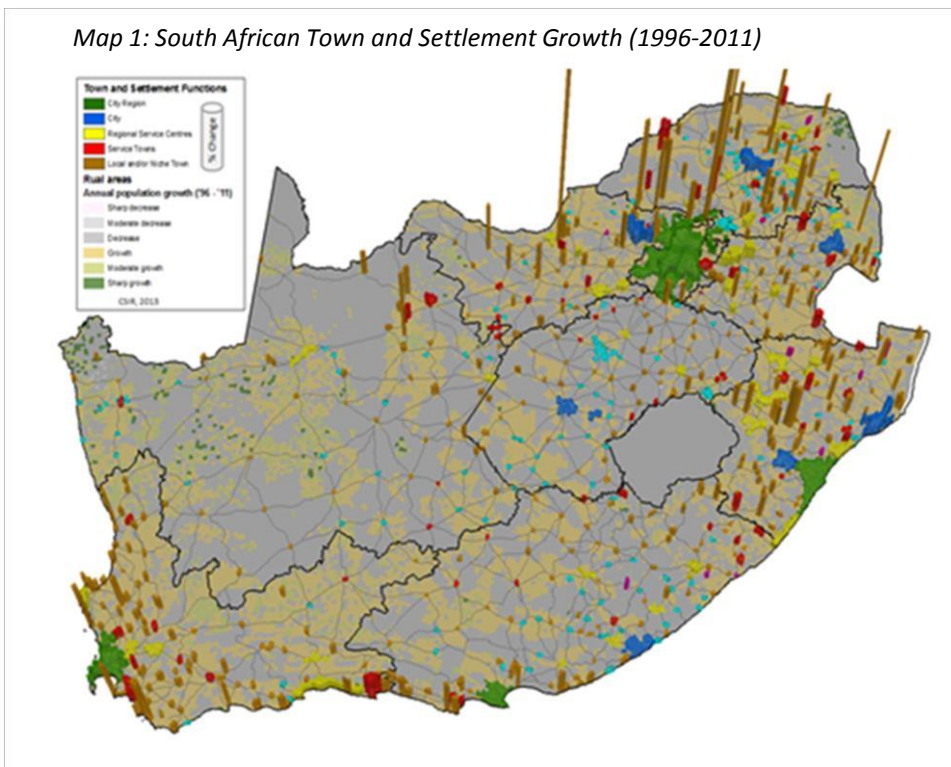
The City Region areas of Gauteng and Cape Town showed the largest growth over this period. Average population growth in the Gauteng City Region area is calculated at 3.9% p.a. for 1996-2001 and at 3% p.a. for the 2001-2011 period, with an average annual growth rate of 3.68% over the last 15 years. Cape Town City Region area registered annual growth rates of 2.6% p.a. for 1996-2001, 2.9% for 2001-2011 and 3.10% for the 1996-2011 period. It is the only city region with an increase in growth rate over the last 15 years.

The table indicates population growth for

the various types of urban areas/ settlements in absolute numbers and with % growth for 1996-2011.

The map illustrates significant growth trends (1996-2011) in:

- The Cities of Rustenburg (5.87%), Richards Bay (4.82%) and Polokwane (4.17%) (See blue on map);





- Resource investment towns and regions (eg. Lepalale, Kathu, Middelburg and Rustenburg, Richards Bay - see blue, yellow and red on maps);
- Towns in border areas (eg. Musina, Mookgophong, Thabazimbi) and specifically along the Swaziland and Mozambique border areas (see red on map);
- Southern Cape coastal towns such as Plettenberg Bay, Hermanus, Jeffreys Bay and George, as well as a number of the service centres (see red on map);
- Towns in the Western Cape (with relatively more growth - see red on map); and
- Some small towns north of Gauteng City Regions, eastern Limpopo, in many Western Cape towns and all across the Swaziland/South Africa and Zimbabwe/South Africa border areas (see light brown bars). Numerous small towns in Mpumalanga and some parts of Limpopo, North West and Kwa-Zulu Natal on some major routes, also illustrate high growth rates (even though from a very low base - see light brown bars).

Population decline (in absolute numbers) is evident in many parts of Eastern Cape districts such as Chris Hani and OR Tambo (see light blue on map).

Slow growth (significantly lower than average annual growth rates between 1996-2011) were recorded in:

- The Nelson Mandela Bay City Region (1.24%) and Buffalo City (0.95%);
- Major regional service towns within densely populated rural areas such as Bushbuckridge, Dennilton/Siyabuswa, Butterworth and King Williams Town; as well as in
- Declining mining centres such as Kroonstad, Welkom Kimberley and Klerksdorp/Stilfontein and many small towns (see light blue on map).

Table 1: Overview of Population Growth across South African Cities and Towns (1996-2011)

Functional Settlement Type (CSIR/SACN 2013v2)	Economic Activity (*Total GVA (xR1000))	Population 1996	Population 2001	Population 2011	% Change Per Annum (1996-2001)	% Change Per Annum (2001-2011)	% Change Per Annum (1996-2011)
City Regions	1 185 948	15 005 442	17 411 707	21 856 192	3.21%	2.55%	3.04%
Cities	178 276	2 782 186	3 209 787	3 876 064	3.07%	2.08%	2.62%
Regional Service Centres	88770	2093504	2333315	2686146	2.29%	1.51%	1.89%
Service Towns	27 278	664 479	826 337	970 366	4.87%	1.74%	3.07%
TOTAL CITIES & LARGER TOWNS	1 480 272	20 545 611	23 781 147	29 388 768	3.15%	2.36%	2.87%
Local and niche towns	123168	3418703	3937326	4345993	3.03%	1.04%	1.81%
Rural Nodes in high density settlements	4 850	148 384	160 935	191 123	1.69%	1.88%	1.92%
TOTAL SMALL TOWNS	128 018	3 567 087	4 098 261	4 537 116	2.98%	1.07%	1.81%
REST OF SA (High density rural areas, densely populated areas and sparsely populated areas)		16 408 074	16 925 740	17 844 213	0.63%	0.54%	0.58%
TOTAL SA		40520772	44805148.2	51 770 097	2.11%	1.55%	1.85%

SOURCE: CSIR GAP 2013 based on StatsSA Census 1996,2001,2011; SACN/CSIR Settlement Typology 2013v6, CSIR TAT (Temporal Analyses Tool) 2013

Sources:

Evidence of settlement growth dynamics, is a result of advanced spatial analyses conducted by the Spatial Planning and Systems unit of the CSIR Built Environment Division. The analyses is based upon the update of the CSIR/SACN Settlement Typology 2013 (originally developed in 2008 for urban policy analyses commissioned by the Presidency, SACN and the former dplg), the updated Geospatial Analyses Platform (2013), and the disaggregation and comparison





of StatsSA Census 1996, 2001 and 2011 data at city and town level conducted through the newly developed Temporal Analytical Tool (CSIR, TAT 2013)

For more information:

For more information on the South African Settlement Typology and city and town growth 1996-2011 see <http://stepsa.org/>. For more information on population data and GAP see <http://www.gap.csir.co.za/>. Contacts: Elsona van Huyssteen evhuyssteen@csir.co.za; Gerbrand Mans gmans@csir.co.za

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