

National migration: main inter-municipal trends

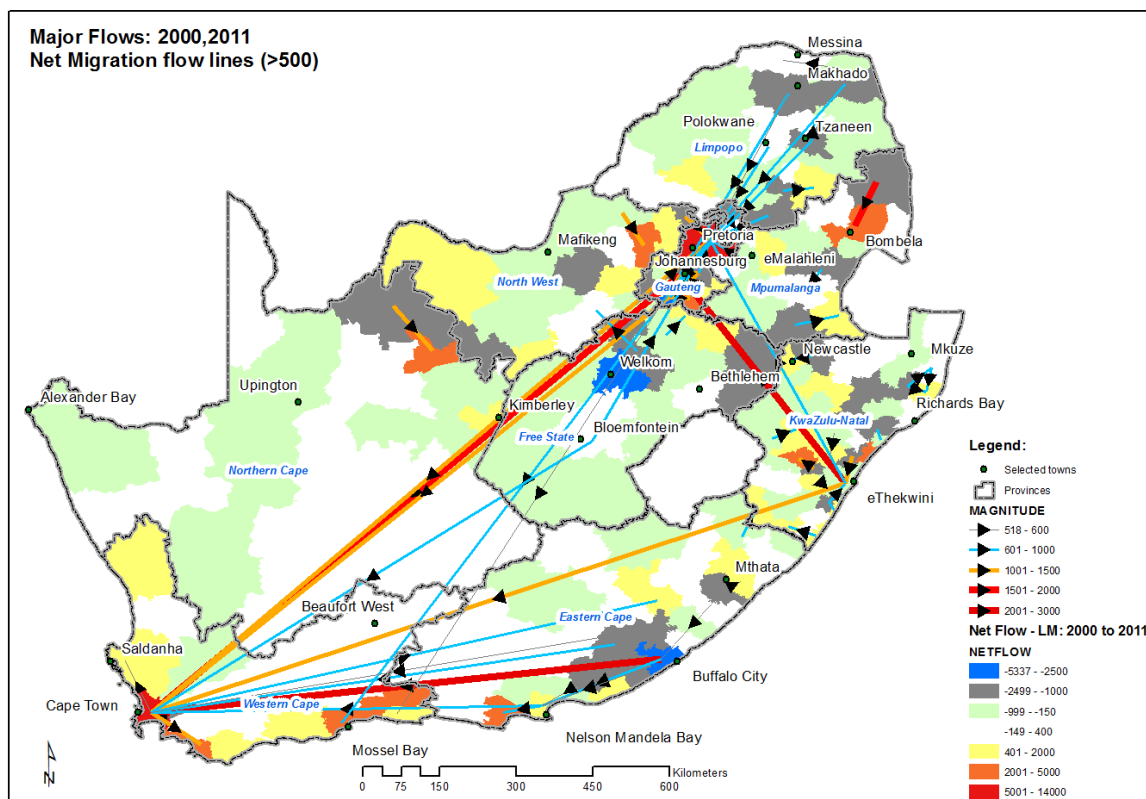
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Using IEC data as an alternative data source, the most significant migration trends for the period 2001-2011 can be observed between metropolitan areas such as Gauteng and Cape Town, EThekweni and Gauteng. Some net migration flows can be observed from rural communities such as in Northern Limpopo to Gauteng or to large centres such as Tzaneen and Mbombela. Movement from the Eastern Cape to the Western Cape can also be observed.



DATA SOURCES: StepSA, 2013. Data processed from IEC voter registration data. Data provided by the Independent Electoral Commission and processed by the CSIR and HSRC.



Using the IEC data the net flows of movement between provinces can be calculated – again the objective is not to list absolute numbers, instead the objective is to identify major migration trends as this in itself is useful to understand trends in time. Looking at net flows is favoured as flows between the same origin / destination is cancelled out leaving only the dominant movement trends. From the mapping it can be observed that there are several net positive migration flows occurring namely:

- From the eastern Cape to the Western Cape
- From Gauteng to the Western Cape
- From Limpopo and Mpumalanga to Gauteng
- From the Free State to both Gauteng and the Western Cape

When considering only net in- or outflow the IEC information indicates that the Western Cape and Gauteng (and to a lesser extent the North-West Province) are net receivers of migrants whilst all other provinces are net providers of migrants (See figure 6). It must however be pointed out that this only indicated inter-provincial movements – more local inter-voting districts and inter-municipal movements are not taken into account. This is also a long interval and interim movements are not reflected here. To conduct inter-municipal migration analysis the same information was extracted at municipal level. Similarly origin- and destination matrices were constructed and flow lines generated to indicate only major net migration trends. Summaries were also produced to indicate if municipalities were net-providers or -receivers of migrants. Figure 7 illustrated the results – grey and blue areas indicate municipalities where a net outflow occurred whilst the orange and red municipalities experienced a net gain through migration. The major movements indicated by flow lines generated indicate the following:

- There was significant movement from several municipalities in the Eastern Cape to the Western Cape.
- Migration from several municipalities in the Limpopo province occurred to Gauteng
- Migration also occurred between the metros especially from eThekweni to Gauteng and from Gauteng to Cape Town
- Also observable is adjustments in distressed districts where migration occurred from more remote areas to municipalities with larger towns (such as Kuruman and Mbombela).

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