

FUTURESCAPE POLICY BRIEF: MIGRATION TRENDS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

NOVEMBER 2017

This brief reviews migration trends in the Western Cape, and is the first of two papers exploring provincial migration.^{1,2} For this analysis, the definition of a migrant is anyone who is permanently relocated into or out of the Western Cape within each five-year estimate period. It includes both domestic and international migrants.

The Western Cape has the second-highest rate of positive net migration³ after Gauteng. Between 2001 and 2016, domestic net migration added an estimated 450 546 people to the province's population, with migrants from other provinces accounting for 27% of population growth over that time period.⁴ The Eastern Cape, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal, were the top three sources of domestic in-migrants to the Western Cape.

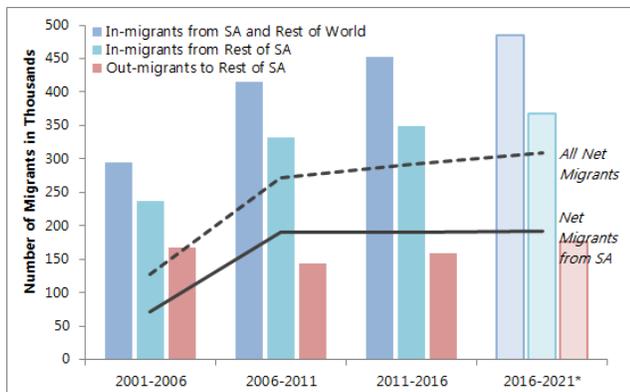


Figure 1, In-migration, Out-migration, and Net Migration in the Western Cape, History and Forecast*

The Western Cape also received an estimated 241 992 migrants from outside South Africa over the same period. Taking these migrants into account, the total number of estimated net migrants grows to 692 538 (41% of population growth). However, current data collection instruments do not capture the number of out-migrants who move abroad from the Western Cape (this includes South Africans and foreigners leaving South Africa). The

lack of data on international out-migration means net migration estimates that include in-migration from outside South Africa are inflated, though it is difficult to determine the degree of inaccuracy.

The annual net migration rate more than doubled between the 2001-2006 and 2006-2011 periods. Migration has begun to plateau since 2011 at the higher rate, but continues to gradually increase. From 2011 to 2016, the province received an estimated 292 370 total net migrants, averaging 58 474 per year.

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that migration is not the sole driver of demographic change in the Western Cape. Births and lengthening life expectancy also contribute a growing population. Migration's relative impact on growth actually declined between the 2006-2011 and 2011-2016 periods, as absolute population growth increased. In the 2011-2016 period, total net migration accounted for 46% of growth, while domestic net migration accounted for 30%. This is a lower rate than the 2006-2011 period, during which these figures were 48% and 33% respectively.

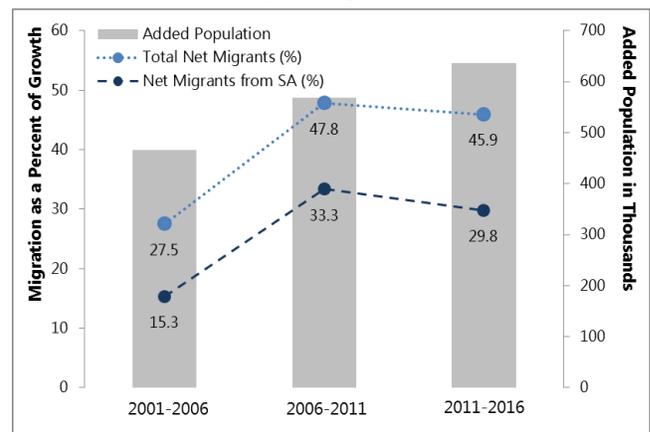


Figure 2, Migration's Relative Contribution to Population Growth & Total New Population Added during the Same Period, History

Unpacking Past Trends: 2001-2016

The Western Cape is a member of two of South Africa's seven major "internal migration corridors":⁵ Eastern Cape

¹ The second of the two papers will be released in early 2018, and will include an analysis of forward-linkages and provincial forecasts.

² While these policy research papers explore policy options, they do not constitute official policy of the Western Cape Government.

³ In-migrants minus out-migrants

⁴ All historical data and forecasts cited in this report are the most recent available from the 2016 & 2017 Mid-year Population Estimates, unless otherwise noted.

⁵ Provincial in and outflows that account for more than 5 per cent of all inter-provincial migratory movements

<-> Western Cape and Gauteng <-> Western Cape.⁶ The Western Cape has reciprocal migration flows with the Eastern Cape and Gauteng, in which it is both the source and recipient of large numbers of migrants. Nevertheless, both relationships yield a positive net inflow of migrants for the province. The Eastern Cape accounted for the largest number of domestic in-migrants to Western Cape, at 36% of the total from 2001 to 2016, and Gauteng was second at 22%. While the Eastern Cape is currently the largest source of migrants to the Western Cape, it only overtook Gauteng in the 2006-2011 period. Foreign countries (21%) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%) are also large sources of in-migrants to the Western Cape. Each of the remaining South African provinces represents less than 5% of the proportion of in-migrants.

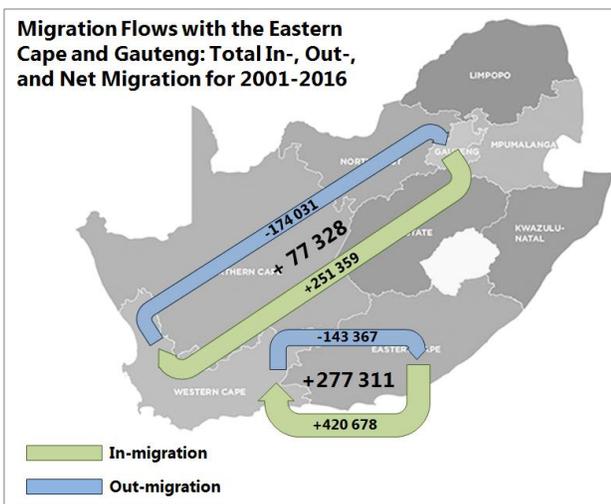


Figure 3, Western Cape Internal Migration Corridors

Of the Western Cape's in-migrant sources, migration from outside of South Africa is growing at the steadiest rate. Foreign countries are now the second-largest in-migrant source. The Census 2011 and Community Survey 2016 both identified Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi, and the United Kingdom as the top five sources of foreign-born nationals in that order.⁷

Growth in net migration is primarily attributable to an increased inflow of in-migrants to the Western Cape, but there has also been a reduction in recorded out-migrants leaving the province. Out-migration decelerated from an annual rate of 33 313 in the 2001-2006 period to a rate of 28 551 in the 2006-2011 period and 31 902 in the 2011-2016 period. Again, these figures only capture domestic and not international out-migration. Recorded out-migration destinations have remained consistent

⁶ Census 2011: Migration Dynamics in South Africa/Statistics South Africa (Report No. 03-01-79). Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-621-44166-6.

⁷ Community Survey 2016, Statistical Release P0301. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2016.

since 2001, with the majority of out-migrants going to either Gauteng (37%) or the Eastern Cape (30%).

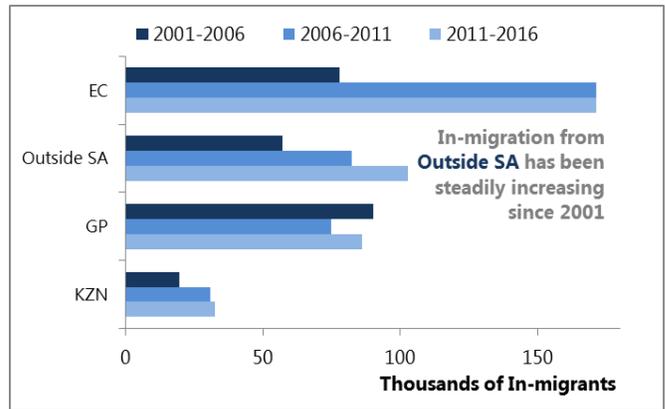


Figure 4, In-migrants to the Western Cape from Origins Representing more than 5% of Total, History

Looking Ahead: 2016-2021

According to Statistics South Africa's forecasts, the Western Cape will continue to receive the second-largest number of total net migrants from 2016 to 2021 after Gauteng. These provinces are set to receive 309 729 and 1 050 230 net migrants respectively. The annual net migration rate to the Western Cape in the 2016-2021 period is expected to maintain at over three times the rate of the 2001-2006 period: 61 946 versus 25 620.

The Eastern Cape is forecast to continue to be the largest source of in-migrants, at 35.5% of the total. Countries outside South Africa (24%) are forecast to remain ahead of Gauteng (20%) as the second-largest source of in-migrants. Comparatively low out-migration to the Eastern Cape makes it by far the largest source of net migration in the forecast, accounting for 65% of the total. Out-migration patterns are likewise expected to stay on course with historical trends, with most out-migrants traveling to Gauteng (37%) or the Eastern Cape (31%). Please refer to the second brief (release early 2018) for an analysis of migration's provincial impacts going forward.

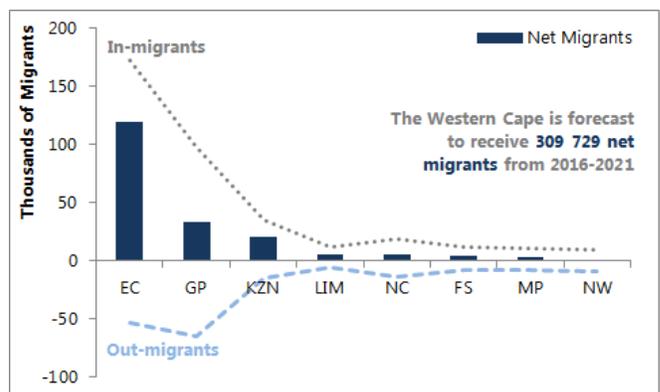


Figure 5, Total In-migrants, Out-migrants to SA, and Net Migrants by Province of Origin, Forecast