

MIGRATION PROFILE REPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA A COUNTRY PROFILE 2023



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Migration Profile Report for South Africa

A COUNTRY PROFILE 2023

MIGRATION PROFILE REPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA A COUNTRY PROFILE 2023

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Statistician-General**

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PREFACE

It is my pleasure to share the first Migration Profile Report for South Africa. It is well known that migration is one of the most spoken about themes in contemporary South Africa and one that elicits many passionate opinions on both sides of the scale when addressing the theme of migration. Very close to the discussions on migration governance is the question of migration data and how government addresses the production and publication thereof. Various frameworks emphasise the importance of migration data such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) objective 1. Indeed, data also play a vital role in tracking migration patterns and trends, and as such Statistics South Africa is committed to provide high-quality data to support evidence-based decision-making. As the country navigates challenging economic conditions and social inequalities, data are instrumental in guiding policies that promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

This Migration Profile Report comes as a consequence of the work and engagements conducted by the Migration and Urbanisation Forum which I launched in August 2022 and which Cabinet subsequently endorsed. This forum has involved itself in regional capacity building initiatives and on various engagements that relate to migration and urbanisation. Through the partnership with the National Population Unit at the Department of Social Development, the forum and this profile report is a testament to what can be achieved through strategic partnerships that seek to provide sound evidence that contributes towards good governance of migration in the country.

To build on the success of this report, Statistics South Africa needs to enhance the coordination and collaboration of traditional and non-traditional data providers (Big Data), particularly with the private sector and academia. The use of alternative data sources, while also ensuring sustainability of current data sources, is paramount to narrowing the data gap. Let us therefore join forces in building and improving lives through amplified data-sharing partnerships.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank all stakeholders who contributed to the development of this Migration Profile Report for South Africa. Your efforts in supporting the Migration Profile Report compilation process are instrumental in promoting sustainable development and ensuring that no one is left behind and enjoys a better quality of life. I therefore encourage the use of the report for enhanced migration data management.



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training
ACMS	African Centre of Migration Society
AHRI	Africa Health Research Institute
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
AU	African Union
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
BMA	Border Management Authority
CAPI	Computer-assisted Personal Interview
CATI	Computer-assisted Telephonic Interview
CAWI	Computer-assisted Web Interview
CCBG	Committee of Central Bank Governors
CET	Community Education and Training
CoRMSA	Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa
CYCCS	Child and Youth Care Centres
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
DOE	Department of Education
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ&CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DSD	Department of Social Development
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
GCM	Global Compact for Migration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GETC-ABET	General Education and Training Certificate-Adult Basic Education and Training
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HEMIS	Higher Education Management Information System
HET	Higher Education and Training
HH	Household Head
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IDAC	International Data Alliance for Children on the Move
IDF	IOM Development Fund
IDPs	Internally Displaced People
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JMAP	Johannesburg Migration Advisory Panel

LHR	Lawyers for Human Rights
LURITS	Learner Unit Record Information and Tracking System
MDWG	Migration Data Working Group
MHFUS	Migrant Health Follow-Up Study
MIDSA	Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTO	Money Transfer Operators
NAP	National Action Plan
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NLMP	National Labour Migration Policy
NPF	National Policy Framework
NRI	National Research Infrastructure
NSF	National Skills Fund
NSFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PSET	Post-school Education and Training
QLFS	Quarterly Labour Force Survey
RRO	Refugee Reception Offices
SA	South Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAIIA	South African Institute of International Affairs
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SAMM	Southern Africa Migration Management
SAPRIN	South African Population Research Infrastructure Network
SAQA	South African Qualification Authority
SARB	South African Reserve Bank
SARIR	South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap
SASAS	South African Social Attitudes Survey
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authority
SETMIS	Skills Education and Training Authorities Management Information System
SITA	State Information Technology Agency
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TVETMIS	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Management Information System
UHR	Universal Human Rights
UK	United Kingdom

UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNGMD	United Nations Global Migration Database
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USA	United States of America
PIV	Pit latrine with ventilation

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Asylum: The grant, by a state, of protection on its territory to persons outside their country of nationality or habitual residence, who are fleeing persecution or serious harm or for other reasons. Asylum encompasses a variety of elements, including non-refoulement, permission to remain on the territory of the asylum country, humane standards of treatment and eventually a durable solution (IOM, 2019).

Asylum seeker: An individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualised procedures, an asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognised as a refugee, but every recognised refugee is initially an asylum seeker (IOM, 2019b).

Border control: Border checks and border surveillance activities conducted at the physical borders – air (airports), sea (sea, lake, river ports) and land borders (land, railway) – of the State aimed at regulating the entry (or the intention to enter) and departure of persons, animals and goods to and from the State's territory, in exercise of its sovereignty (IOM, 2019b).

Border control point/crossing point: A place authorised by the competent authorities to cross the border (for persons or goods), or a place officially designated by the legal framework of the State as an official entry to/exit from the State (IOM, 2019b).

Border management: The administration of measures related to authorised movement of persons (regular migration) and goods, whilst preventing unauthorised movement of persons (irregular migration) and goods, detecting those responsible for smuggling, trafficking and related crimes and identifying the victims of such crimes or any other person in need of immediate or longer-term assistance and/or (international) protection (IOM, 2019b).

Border official: An official assigned, in accordance with national law, to carry out tasks related to border management (IOM, 2019b).

Brain drain: Depletion of human capital in a specific occupation or economic sector resulting from the emigration of skilled workers engaged in this occupation or sector from the country of origin to another country (or from one region of a country to another – internal migration) (IOM, 2019b).

Brain gain: From the perspective of a country of destination, immigration of skilled workers into the country resulting in the acquisition of human capital. From the perspective of a country of origin, the positive spill-over effects of the emigration of highly skilled workers such as brain circulation, or the motivational effects of migration that spur aspiring migrants to acquire further skills. Brain gain also occurs when migrants return to their country or communities of origin and bring with them new skills and knowledge acquired in migration (IOM, 2019b).

Country of origin: In the migration context, a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly (IOM, 2019b).

Diaspora: Migrants or descendants of migrants whose identity and sense of belonging, either real or symbolic, have been shaped by their migration experience and background. They maintain links with their homelands and to each other, based on a shared sense of history, identity, or mutual experiences in the destination country (IOM, 2019b).

Drivers of migration: Complex set of interlinking factors that influence an individual, family or population group's decisions relating to migration, including displacement (IOM, 2019b).

Emigrant: From the perspective of the country of departure, a person who moves from his or her country of nationality or usual residence to another country, for a period of at least 6 months so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (IOM, 2019b).

Emigration: From the perspective of the country of departure, the act of moving from one's country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (IOM, 2019b).

Environmental migration: The movement of persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their places of habitual residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move within or outside their country of origin or habitual residence (IOM, 2019b).

Feminisation of migration: The changing nature of women's migration, reflecting the fact that more women migrate independently rather than as members of a household, and are actively involved in employment (IOM, 2019b).

Forced migration: A migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion (IOM, 2019b).

Gender-based violence: An umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and denial of resources, opportunities or services, forced marriage and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private (IOM, 2019b).

Immigrant: From the perspective of the country of arrival, a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, for a period of at least six continuous months with the intention of staying in that country. The country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (IOM, 2019b).

Immigrant learner: An immigrant learner is a child or a dependent of a foreign government accredited in South Africa (¹Department of basic education, 2011)

Internal migrant: Any person who is moving or has moved within a State for the purpose of establishing a new temporary or permanent residence or because of displacement (IOM, 2019b).

Internal migration: The movement of people within a State involving the establishment of a new temporary or permanent residence (IOM, 2019b).

Internal temporary mobility: Refers to all movements within a country that does not result in a change of place of residence (UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics).

International temporary mobility: Refers to all movements that cross international borders that do not result in a change in the country of residence (UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics).

Internally displaced persons: Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border (IOM, 2019b).

International mobility: All movements that cross international borders within a given year (UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics).

International migration: All movements resulting in a change in the country of residence (a subset of international mobility) within a given year (UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics).

International migrant: A person who has changed his or her country of residence and established new residence in the country within a given year (6 months and 1 year). An international migrant can be either 'immigrant' or 'emigrant' and include those with national or foreign citizenships or stateless persons (UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics).

Irregular migration: Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination (IOM, 2019b).

Involuntary emigration: A migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion (IOM, 2019b).

Labour migration: Movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment (IOM, 2019b).

¹ (<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Policies/PolicyProgPromReqNCS.pdf>)

Labour mobility: Labour mobility – or mobility of workers – can be either occupational (movement along the occupational ladder) or geographic (movement across geographic locations). In the context of migration, geographic labour mobility is implied (IOM, 2019b).

Lifetime migrant: An individual whose place of usual residence at a point in time differs from his/her place of birth (Stats SA).

Migrant: An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students (IOM, 2019b).

Migrant in an irregular situation: A person who moves or has moved across an international border and is not authorised to enter or to stay in a State pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party (IOM, 2019b).

Migrant in a regular situation: A person who moves or has moved across an international border and is authorised to enter or to stay in a State pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party (IOM, 2019b).

Migrant worker: A person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national (IOM, 2019b).

Migration: The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a State (IOM, 2019b).

Migration governance: The combined frameworks of legal norms, laws and regulations, policies and traditions as well as organisational structures (subnational, national, regional and international) and the relevant processes that shape and regulate States' approaches with regard to migration in all its forms, addressing rights and responsibilities and promoting international cooperation (IOM, 2019b).

Migration health: A public health topic which refers to the theory and practice of assessing and addressing migration-associated factors that can potentially affect the physical, social and mental well-being of migrants and the public health of host communities (IOM, 2019b).

Migration management: The management and implementation of the whole set of activities primarily by States within national systems or through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, concerning all aspects of migration and the mainstreaming of migration considerations into public policies. The term refers to planned approaches to the implementation and operationalisation of policy, legislative and administrative frameworks, developed by the institutions in charge of migration (IOM, 2019b).

Migration profile: An analysis of available accurate and disaggregated data on some or all migration-relevant aspects of a country's national context, prepared in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, which can be used to enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking on migration and the mainstreaming of migration into development plans (IOM, 2019b).

Migration stocks: The total number of persons living in a country at a particular point in time who were born in another country (Stats SA).

Migration flows: Refer to the number of persons entering or leaving a given country to form part of the resident population of the sending or receiving country within a given year, including persons with national or foreign citizenships or stateless persons (UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics).

National: A person having a legal bond with a State (IOM, 2019b).

Net migration: Net number of migrants in a given period, that is, the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants (IOM, 2019b).

Net migration rate: The net effect of immigration and emigration on the population of an area, expressed as an increase or decrease per 1 000 population of the area in a given year (IOM, 2019b).

Non-migrant: A person who resides in the country where he/she was born and has not crossed international borders for residence purposes (Stats SA).

Period migration: Measures movements of persons at one point in time relative to a previous point in time (e.g. one calendar year) (Stats SA).

Permanent resident: A non-national with the right of permanent residence in a State of destination. Also referred to as a long-term migrant (IOM, 2019b).

Permanent migrant: A migrant who leaves their place of origin and in doing so terminates their membership of the origin household, usually referring to the formation or dissolution of a marital union (IOM, 2019b).

Permit: In the migration context, documentation, such as a residence or work permit, which is usually issued by a government authority, and which evidences the permission a person has to reside and/or carry out a remunerated activity (IOM, 2019b).

Place of usual residence: The geographical place where a person has lived most of the last 12 months within a given year or have intentions to stay (or granted to stay) for at least 6 months; not including temporary absence for holidays or work assignments (Stats SA).

Place of previous residence: The geographical place where a person was residing at a previous point in time (linked to period migration).

Pre-departure orientation programmes: Courses designed to help prospective migrants, including refugees, acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to facilitate their integration into the country of destination. They also address expectations and provide a safe and non-threatening environment in which to answer migrants' questions and address concerns (IOM, 2019b).

Receiving country: Usually, the country of destination of a migrant. In the case of return or repatriation, also the country of origin or, in the context of resettlement, a country that has accepted to receive a certain number of migrants, including refugees, on a yearly basis by presidential, ministerial, or parliamentary decision. In the context of diplomatic or consular relations, the receiving country is the State which has consented to the establishment of consular posts or diplomatic missions of another State on its territory (IOM, 2019a).

Recent migration: Measures movements of persons at one point in time relative to a previous point in time (e.g. one calendar year).

Refugee: A person recognised as a refugee, by a State or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on the basis of objective criteria related to the circumstances in their country of origin, which justify a presumption that they meet the criteria of the applicable refugee definition (adapted from IOM, 2019b).

Reintegration: A process which enables individuals to re-establish the economic, social and psychosocial relationships needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity and inclusion in civic life (IOM, 2019b).

Remittances: Personal monetary transfers, cross border or within the same country, made by migrants to individuals or communities with whom the migrant has links (IOM, 2019b).

Repatriation: The personal right of a prisoner of war, civil detainee, refugee, or of a civilian to return to his or her country of nationality under specific conditions laid down in various international instruments (IOM, 2019b).

Resettlement: The transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought protection to another State that has agreed to admit them – as refugees – with permanent residence status (IOM, 2019b).

Return: In a general sense, the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure. This could be within the territorial boundaries of a country, as in the case of returning internally displaced persons (IDPs) and demobilised combatants, or between a country of destination or transit and a country of origin, as in the case of migrant workers, refugees or asylum seekers (IOM, 2019b).

Returning migrants: Refers to persons who previously resided in the country of measurement who emigrated and subsequently came back to live in the country and stayed or intended to stay for the minimum duration required for residence (UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics).

Return migration: In the context of international migration, the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border. In the context of internal migration, the movement of persons returning to their place of habitual residence after having moved away from it (IOM, 2019b).

Resident population: Consists of individuals who either (a) have lived most of the last 12 months within a given year or have intentions to stay (or granted to stay) for at least 6 months; or (b) have lived at least 12 months within a given year or intentions to stay (or granted to stay) for at least 12 months, not including temporary absence for holidays or work assignments (UN, Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, 2017).

Safe, orderly, and regular migration: Movement of persons in keeping both with the laws and regulations governing exit from, entry and return to and stay in States and with States' international law obligations, in a manner in which the human dignity and well-being of migrants are upheld, their rights are respected, protected and fulfilled and the risks associated with the movement of people are acknowledged and mitigated (IOM, 2019b).

Seasonal migrant worker: A migrant worker whose work, or migration for employment is by its character dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year (IOM, 2019b).

Secondary migration: The movement of a migrant from their first country of destination to another country, other than the country in which he or she originally resided and other than the person's country of nationality (IOM, 2019a).

Skilled migrant worker: A migrant worker who has the appropriate skill level and specialisation to carry out the tasks and duties of a given job (IOM, 2019b).

Smuggler (of migrants): A person who commits or intends to commit the crime of smuggling (IOM, 2019b).

Smuggling (of migrants): The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the irregular entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (IOM, 2019b).

Stateless person: A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law (IOM, 2019b).

Temporary migration: A migrant who remains a member of the origin household while away, usually implying regular communication with the origin household, the potential of sending remittances and eventual return (IOM, 2019b).

Tourists: Persons who do not reside in the country of arrival and are admitted to that country under tourist visas (if required) for purposes of leisure, recreation, holiday, visits to friends or relatives, health or medical treatment, or religious pilgrimage. They must spend at least a night in a collective or private accommodation in the receiving country and their duration of stay must not surpass 12 months (UN DESA, 1998).

Transit: A stopover of passage of varying length while travelling between two or more States (IOM, 2010).

Trafficker (human): Any person who commits or attempts to commit the crime of trafficking in persons or any person who participates as an accomplice, organises, or directs other persons to commit the crime of trafficking in persons (IOM, 2019a).

Trafficking in persons: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (IOM, 2019a).

Travel document: A document issued by a government or by an international organisation which is accepted as a proof of identity for the purpose of crossing international borders (IOM, 2019a).

Turnover mobility: With respect to a given area, the sum of in-migration and out-migration, or of in-migrants and out-migrants (UN, 1970).

Urbanisation: The occurrence of increasing proportion of a population that is living in urban areas (IOM, 2019a).

Usual resident: A person who has lived most of the last 12 months within a given year or have intentions to stay (or granted to stay) for at least 6 months, not including temporary absence for holidays or work assignments (Stats SA).

Usual place of residence: Place where a person usually resides that is aligned to the definition of resident population above (UNSD, 2022).

Victim of trafficking (in persons): Any natural person subject to trafficking in human beings, regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted (IOM, 2019b).

Visa: An endorsement by the competent authorities of a State in a passport or a certificate of identity of a non-national who wishes to enter, leave, or transit through the territory of the State that indicates that the authority, at the time of issuance, considers the holder to fall within a category of non-nationals who can enter, leave or transit the State under the State's laws. A visa establishes the criteria of admission into, transit through or exit from a State (IOM, 2019a).

Visitors: Persons who do not reside in the country of arrival and who are admitted for short stays for the purposes of leisure, recreation, holidays; visits to friends or relatives; business or professional activities not remunerated from within the receiving country; health treatment; or religious pilgrimages. Visitors include excursionists, tourists and business travellers (UN DESA, 1998).

Xenophobia: At the international level, no universally accepted definition of xenophobia exists, though it can be described as attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or migrants to the community, society or national identity (IOM, 2019).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Migration Profile Report for South Africa offers a comprehensive view of migration within a country experiencing mixed migration flows, hampered by fragmented data management systems. Aligned with the Global Compact for Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals, the report prioritises migrants' rights and underscores the critical need for precise, disaggregated data to inform policy decisions effectively.

The Migration Profile was prepared by members of the inter-ministerial Technical Working Group, in close collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders and with technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This Migration Profile – a first for South Africa – is designed to enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking, and the mainstreaming of migration into South Africa's development plans.

Its development was guided and supported with inputs by the Technical Working Group of government ministries and institutions. The report provides an overview of migrant characteristics, trends and impacts of migration in South Africa up to the end of 2022/23. The data used in the analysis were collected from various sources, ranging from South Africa's national population and housing censuses and national surveys to administrative records, academic research and relevant national and international sources. As a result, this landmark profile delivers one of the most comprehensive overviews of migration trends and their impacts on South Africa to date.

The Migration Profile is comprised of three parts:

- Part A: Migration trends and characteristics provides data and analysis of migration trends in South Africa.
- Part B: Impacts of migration describes the impact of migration on key socioeconomic and development indicators based on several literature reviews.
- Part C: Recommendations presents key steps and initiatives for consideration by policymakers.

PART A: MIGRATION TRENDS AND MIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS

GENERAL CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY: Between 2011 and 2015, there were fluctuations in the issuance of both Permanent Residence and Temporary Residence permits, notably peaking for Temporary Residence permits in 2012 and gradually declining thereafter. The turnover mobility trends from 2010 to 2022 showed a consistent increase until 2016, reaching a peak of 30 789 422. However, this sharply declined in 2020–2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions, with a slight rebound observed in 2022. Transit migration experienced substantial growth from 2016 to 2019, reaching a peak of 821 440, but faced significant drops in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, followed by notable recovery in 2023. Short-term visits displayed consistent growth until 2019, reaching a peak of 10 228 593, but witnessed substantial declines in 2020 and 2021, with a partial recovery in 2023, hinting at a possible resurgence in short-term visits.

IMMIGRATION (IMMIGRANT STOCKS): The data on immigration in South Africa encapsulate several noteworthy trends: a shifting landscape of median ages; a steadily growing migrant population; and a notable trend toward young adults as primary movers. Dominated by the black African population group, the migration landscape revolves around Gauteng as a central hub while Zimbabwe emerges as a significant source country. Most migrants originate from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Employment among immigrant individuals based on quarter three of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) has steadily increased from 6,0% in 2012 to 8,9% in 2022. Industry preferences, especially in the wholesale and retail trade, exhibit variations in migrant employment. Zimbabwe consistently leads in sending students to South Africa for higher education and training. On the other hand, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia are leading countries in sending refugees to South Africa.

The distribution of immigrant learner in basic education has been presented across the years from 2018 to 2023. In 2018, there were a total of 26 992 learners; over subsequent years, the number of immigrant learners increased steadily for both sexes. Finally, in 2023 the number of immigrant learners further increased to 37 856 males and 38 949 females, with a total of 76 805 learners.

Housing trends demonstrate a move toward formal housing, a surge in property ownership among immigrants, and enhanced utility access. Yet, despite strides in housing and utilities, waste management remains a challenge, reflecting persisting issues despite advancements.

EMIGRATION: Across various years, the number of South African citizens residing abroad showed fluctuations in sex ratios, with consistent growth overall. The United Kingdom (UK), Australia, and the United States of America (USA) were favoured destinations for South African citizens residing abroad, demonstrating significant increases in their populations. Emigration for study purposes witnessed a steady rise in the number of South African students studying abroad. However, involuntary emigration, particularly the refugee population, exhibited significant changes over time, with fluctuating numbers indicating the sensitivity of such migration. The destinations for South African asylum seekers shifted across countries from 2021 to 2022, reflecting changes in asylum-seeking patterns.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION: South Africa lacks comprehensive data on irregular migration due to the unavailability of administrative records which would allow for indirect estimation of this invisible group. On the other hand, the population census has a limitation as it does not ask respondents about their legal status in the country during census enumeration due to the fact that NSO's are not mandated to monitor the legal status of immigrants. Administrative sources from the Department of Home Affairs related to permits may give some insight in terms to number of permits given over a specified period.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: In the prison system, immigrants made up 1,7% to 2,6% of inmates from 2017 to 2021, averaging 2,3% over five years. Deportation events fluctuated widely overtime between 2002 and 2022. A high number of deportations were observed in 2007 (312 284). Reported cases of immigrants accused of crimes varied across provinces, with Gauteng consistently reporting higher numbers due to most people residing there. Cases involving nationals from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi, and Nigeria showed fluctuations over the years.

RETURN MIGRATION: The voluntary return of South African citizens between 2011 and 2022 saw fluctuations by age and sex distribution. In 2011, 45 866 citizens returned, with 46,2% being male and 53,8% female. However, by 2022 the return numbers dropped to 27 983, showcasing an equal split of 50,0% male and female returnees. Age-wise distribution revealed a varied landscape across different population groups in 2011, showcasing diverse representation across age brackets. This trend underwent noticeable changes by 2022, indicating shifts in demographic patterns. In 2011, white South Africans comprised 56,6% of returnees, contrasting with black Africans at 32%. By 2022 this had evolved, with whites accounting for 52,9% and black Africans for 37,1% of the returnee demographic. Sex and age dynamics further revealed that in both 2011 and 2022, a higher percentage of male returnees existed across age brackets. Provincial distribution displayed a similar trend, with Gauteng and the Western Cape being prominent in 2011. By 2022, shifts in returnee percentages across provinces hinted at changing preferences or circumstances influencing voluntary return decisions.

INTERNAL MIGRATION: The analysis on the period in migration between the 2011 and 2022 censuses reveals intriguing trends. Gauteng and the Western Cape are the two main provinces that attracted a high number of in-migrants between the two censuses; the Northern Cape is the province with the lowest share of period migrants (2,6%). Eastern Cape on the other hand experienced an increase of 5,3% from Census 2011 and 10,3% in Census 2022. Period out-migration indicates that Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal experience a high share of out-migration. Caution needs to be taken when interpreting the data on period migration from Census 2022 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in less movement of people. Lastly, the results on the main reasons for moving from the previous place of residence in 2022 indicate that the main reason for migrating is to look for paid work, followed by moving to be closer to spouses.

PART B: IMPACTS OF MIGRATION

Migration intertwines with human development, shaping opportunities through knowledge exchange and remittances while posing challenges like brain drain and irregular migration. Economically, migration fuels growth, driving occupational expansion and entrepreneurship, yet management incurs costs. It is associated with employment, skills development, and competition for scarce resources which, necessitates a balanced approach. Migration's role in social development influences urbanisation and societal identity, requiring inclusive policies to foster cohesion. Health-wise, migration impacts the demand and delivery of healthcare in several ways. Migrant workers play an important role in the healthcare industry while South Africa sees steady emigration of healthcare professionals, demanding a comprehensive policy response. Environmentally, migration contributes positively through knowledge transfer but strains ecosystems, especially amid climate change. Overall, addressing the complexities of migration in South Africa demands nuanced strategies that harness benefits while mitigating challenges for comprehensive and inclusive development.

PART C: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON DATA COLLECTION

Recommendations on improving migration statistics.

Regular population surveys: Conduct regular population surveys that specifically focus on migration patterns, reasons for migration, and socio-economic characteristics of migrants. These surveys should encompass both documented and undocumented migrants.

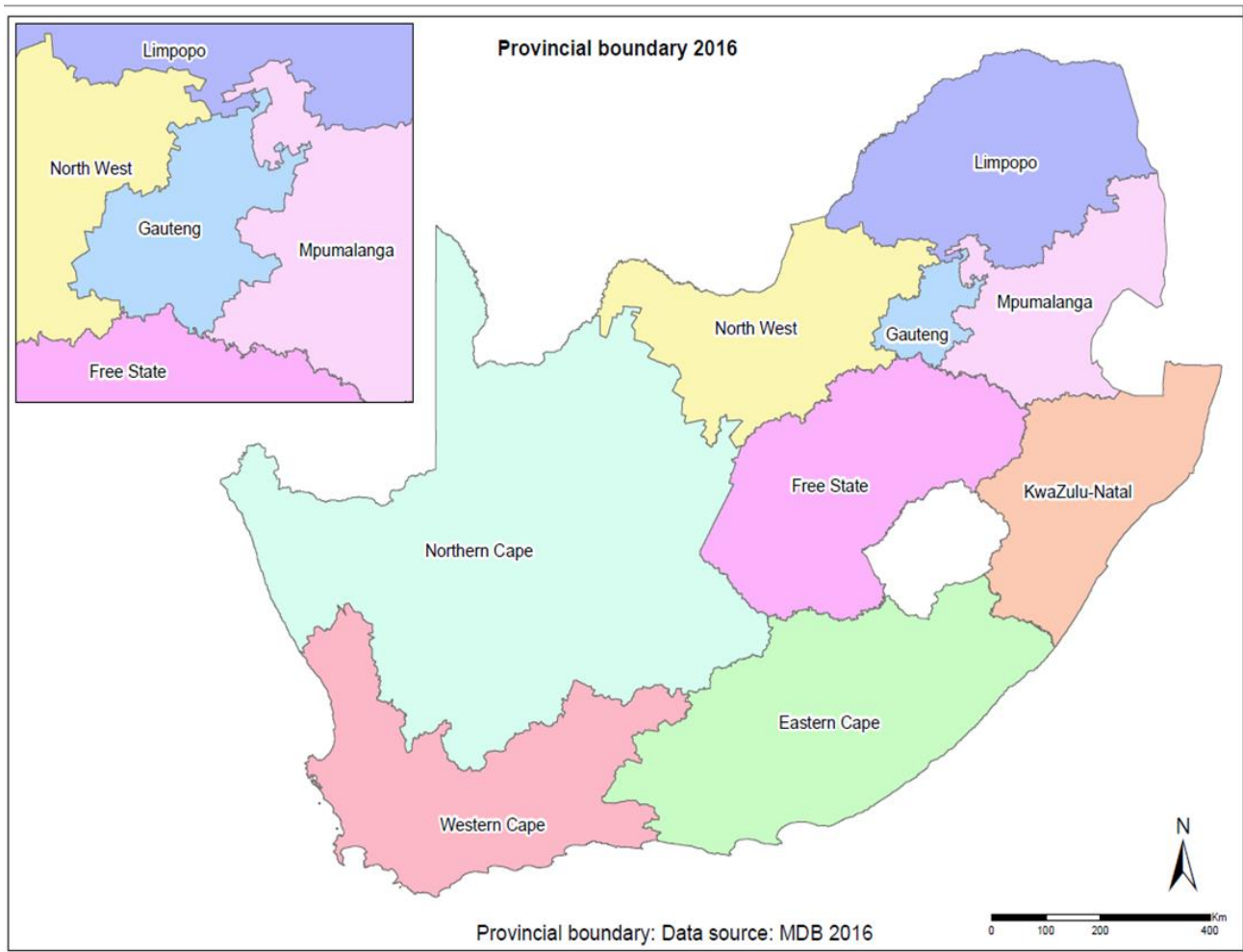
Capacity building: Invest in training and capacity building for officials involved in data collection and analysis. This ensures a better understanding of migration dynamics and improves the quality of data collected.

Utilise administrative data: Integrate data from various administrative sources, such as border control agencies, health services, and education departments, to create a more comprehensive picture of migration patterns.

Use of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Consideration of Big Data and AI should certainly be brought on board to gain an understanding of migration from a different perspective. Research and partnerships are required in this regard.

The full set of recommendations can be found in Part C of the report.

MAP OF SOUTH AFRICA AND KEY COUNTRY STATISTICS



Source: Stats SA

South Africa Key Statistics

Geography total area	1 220 813 square kilometres						
Human and social development²	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Life expectancy at birth, years, annual averages (males)	61,1	61,7	61,7	62,0	62,3	59,2	60,0
Life expectancy at birth, years, annual averages (females)	66,7	67,1	67,4	67,8	68,4	64,2	65,6
Total life expectancy	64,0	64,5	64,6	64,9	65,4	61,7	62,8
Education³	2010	2011	2012	2014	2015	2017	2019
Adult literacy rate, percentage aged 15 and older	92,9	93,1	93,7	94,1	94,4	87,0	95,0
Combined gross enrolment ratio in education (%)	18,4	19,6	19,1	19,8	22,3	22,4	23,9
Economic⁴	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP per capita, PPP in thousands of US\$	13 696,16	13 950,45	14 326,65	14 439,69	13 533,78	14 689,15	15 904,85
Human Development Index (HDI)	0,719	0,72	0,726	0,736	0,727	0,713	—
Remittance inflows (US\$ million)	755	874	929	890	811	927	873
Remittance outflow (US\$ million)	897	1,033	1,098	1,052	921	1,066	1,012
FDI Inward Flow (US\$ million)	—	—	—	—	3,062	40,948	9,051
FDI Stock (US\$ million)	—	—	—	—	133,127	174,783	173,584
Annual inflation rate on a monthly basis	—	—	—	—	3,3	4,5	6,9
Net Official Development Assistance (ODA) (in US\$ million)	1 180,30	1 014,80	921	964,9	1 203,10	1 039,60	—
Population⁵	1996	2001	2011	2022			
Total	40 583 573	44 819 778	51 770 560	62 027 503			
Male	19 520 887	21 434 040	25 188 791	30 078 757			
Female	21 062 685	23 385 737	26 581 769	31 948 745			
Black African	31 127 631	35 416 166	41 000 938	50 486 856			
Coloured	3 600 446	3 994 505	4 615 401	5 052 349			
Indian or Asian	1 045 596	1 115 467	1 286 930	1 697 506			
White	4 434 697	4 293 640	4 586 838	4 504 252			
Other	375 204	—	280 454	247 353			
International migrants' stock	835 216	1 025 076	2 184 408	2 418 197			
International migrants as percentage of the total population	2,06	2,29	4,22	3,9			
Females among international migrants (%)	38,0	40,46	39,82	42,2			
Projected Net international migration⁶		1985-2000	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2026
		466,673	491,652	752,215	916,346	852,992	592,520

² World Development Indicators; Human Development Reports (undp.org)

³ World Bank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/DT.ODA.ALLD.CD?locations=ZA>

⁴ World Bank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/DT.ODA.ALLD.CD?locations=ZA>;

⁵ Statistics South Africa, Census 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022: <https://census.statssa.gov.za/>

⁶ Statistical release P0301.4; Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2022*,

INTRODUCTION

South Africa has shown to be a receiver of most migrants from the African continent. However, a comprehensive picture of the migration levels, trends and pattern of different types of immigrants is limited due to the lack of an integrated migration statistics system. The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) is a multi-lateral agreement recognises the need to promote the rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, so as to ensure their integration into society. The GCM is essentially a tool that makes provides a best practice guide to migration governance that countries ought to aspire to. Furthermore, the GCM emphasises the need for countries to collect and utilise accurate and disaggregated migration data as a basis for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation. In particular, this objective calls for Migration Profiles to be produced and this report is a contribution to ensure that South Africa is complying with this objective. To adequately do this, there is a need to understand recent migration levels, trends, and patterns in South Africa, as well as the implications thereof. This is essential in planning for the welfare of the migrant population.

According to the 2022 South African population and housing census (Census 2022), there were an estimated 2 418 197 international migrants in South Africa; the percentage share of immigrants to the total population decreased from 4,2% to 3,9% between 2011 and 2022. Furthermore, the data show the peak age of male migrants has shifted from ages 25–29 years to 35–39 years (Statistics South Africa, 2015). It is also important to mention that census data may fail to capture the recent dynamic and often rapid changes in migration patterns, leading to an underrepresentation of recent or temporary migration events. Essentially, while a census attempts to count everyone in the country on a reference date, there may be persons involved in circular or temporary migration who are not captured at a particular reference point but who are present at other points in time.

Internal migration data also show that migration across provincial boundaries is mostly the domain of males and of young adults aged 20–39. The destination of most migrants is Gauteng. Better job opportunities and living conditions are cited as the main reasons for internal migration in South Africa. People migrated from rural areas to cities in search of employment and a higher standard of living. This indicates that individuals are seeking economic opportunities and improved quality of life in their decision to migrate, thus suggesting that migration can be attributed to socio-economic opportunities, such as reduced poverty and unemployment rates.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have recognised the linkage between migration and development. The primary aim of SDG 10 and the GCM emphasises the need to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Furthermore, the SDG 10 emphasises the necessity for countries to gather high-quality, timely, and accurate and disaggregated data to track progress on how migration affects the growth of their economy as well as other social indices. This information is necessary to ensure that neither non-migrants nor migrants in the recipient country are left behind in the process of social development.

To bridge the data gaps on migration, several initiatives have been put forth by the various United Nations groups. These initiatives aim to improve the collection, quality, comparability, and availability of data on migration. Among such initiatives are the UN Toolkit to assess national migration data capacity and a set of standard questions on international migration by the Expert Group on Migration Statistics. This guidance improves the quality and comparability of international migration statistics collected through national population censuses and sample surveys. Another effort is the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC), a global coalition that focuses on improving data and statistics related to migrant and displaced children.

Migration has been associated with positive impacts on economic development. Studies show that migration can increase overall output and promote economic activity. Remittances and extra income from migration can increase the propensity and ability to consume and produce, potentially boosting economic growth. Migration can also lead to the transfer of knowledge and know-how, promoting innovation and technological advancements and addresses skills gaps. Additionally, migration can contribute to poverty reduction and improve living conditions, as migrants and their households may have higher incomes and access to better opportunities. Accurate and comprehensive data are necessary to assess the various dimensions of migration and its effects on different aspects of socio-economic development. Understanding this link is crucial for policymakers and other stakeholders to develop effective migration policies and strategies that maximise the benefits of migration while mitigating potential negative impacts.

The significance of managing migration in the developmental process of a country has been recognised by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. These global initiatives emphasise the necessity for countries to gather high-quality, timely, accurate and disaggregated data to track progress on how migration affects the growth of their economy as well as other social indices. This calls for countries to ensure that their population policies integrate strategies that do not leave migrants behind in the process of development of the recipient country.

A Migration Profile is a country-owned tool, which is prepared in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders in government, development partners, private sector and civil society organisations. The Migration Profile can be used by the government and its stakeholders to enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking, and the mainstreaming of migration into development plans. The Migration Profile brings together a range of existing migration-related indicators and policy-relevant information from different sources in a structured manner.

A migration profile report template proposed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) comprises three main components; migration trends and migration characteristics; impact of migration; and migration governance. Creating a migration profile report involves a systematic methodology to comprehensively capture and analyse migration dynamics. The process typically begins with a thorough review of existing literature, official documents, and statistical data related to migration in the target region. Primary data collection methods, such as surveys and interviews, are often employed to gather insights into the motivations, patterns, and characteristics of migrants. Quantitative data, including census information and administrative records, are analysed alongside qualitative data collected through literature review and key informant interviews to

provide a holistic understanding. The process of crafting a migration profile report often unveils notable gaps that can challenge the comprehensiveness of the analysis. Inherent limitations in available data sources, especially concerning informal and temporary migrations, can impede a full understanding of population movements. Inconsistent or outdated statistical records, coupled with potential underreporting of migration statistics due to non-availability of routine data management systems across developing countries, may create data reliability issues.

This Migration Profile for South Africa has provided an opportunity for the government in terms of having detailed data on the characteristics and migratory trends and patterns of the country. Furthermore, the Migration Profile report stimulates population policy action to integrate migration issues into development planning of the country. In addition, the report has described migrant stocks and their characteristics; such data are key in informing decision-making processes in the management of migrants' welfare through stronger mechanisms to generate timely and up-to-date data and statistics on migration for the country. Thus, the report has provided comprehensive evidence to guide the development of programmes aimed at improving the welfare of the South African population.

PART A: MIGRATION TRENDS AND MIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS

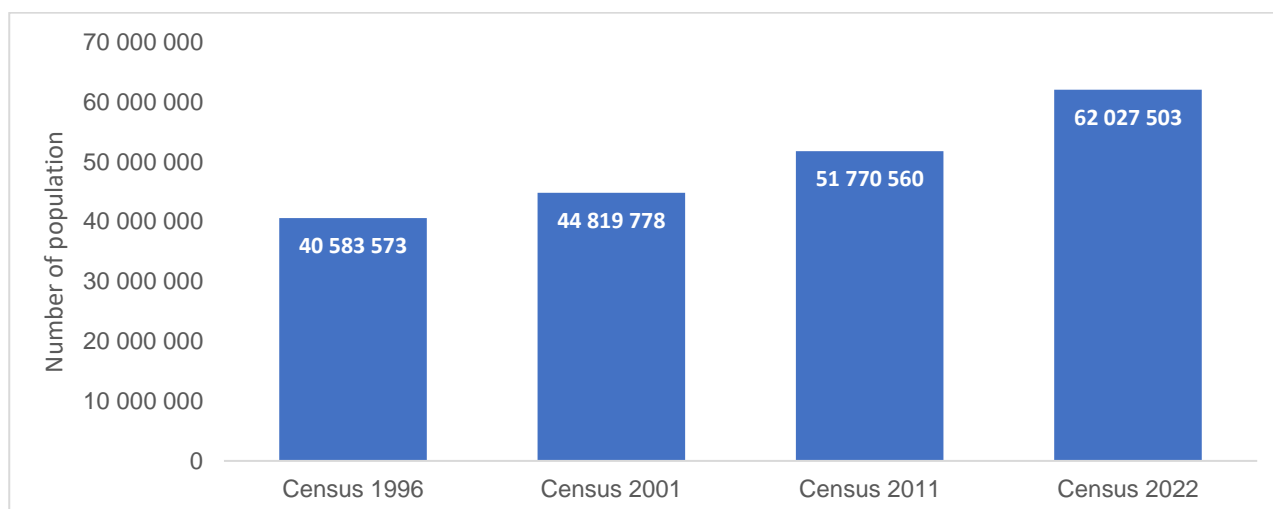
A.0 GENERAL POPULATION

This section presents an overview of key demographic characteristics of South Africa's population. It covers the total population by province, population groups as well as the age-sex distribution based on Census 1996 to 2022. South Africa's population and housing census provides a framework for South Africa to take stock of the population and housing dynamics every 10 years. The census generates diverse data on demographic and socio-economic information and plays an essential role in planning, policy formulation, evaluation, and budget allocation. Census 2022 was the fourth census undertaken since the advent of democracy in 1994, and, as such, it contributes to a vast body of knowledge that describes the state and the progress for the country. Although data collection during Census 2022 was confronted with COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on the movement of people, Statistics South Africa was innovative in conducting the first digital census which used three modes of data collection: Computer-assisted Personal Interview (CAPI); Computer-assisted Web Interview (CAWI); and Computer-assisted Telephonic Interview (CATI).

It should be noted that Census 2022 occurred between the last two peaks of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa. The previous peak of the Omicron COVID-19 variant cases occurred on 16 December 2021, 48 days before the start of the census; the subsequent wave peaked on 6 May 2022 – 93 days after the start of the census. Furthermore, COVID-19 deaths peaked on 18 February 2022, two weeks after the start of the census. The pandemic had a profound impact on Census 2022 as a project. Whilst the census results may be surprising in some aspects, they are the outcome of what was collected during 2022.

Figure 0.1 below shows the total population for South Africa by census years, 1996–2022. The results show that the population size of the country has been increasing. The population size increased from 40 583 573 in 1996 to an estimated 62 027 503 in 2022.

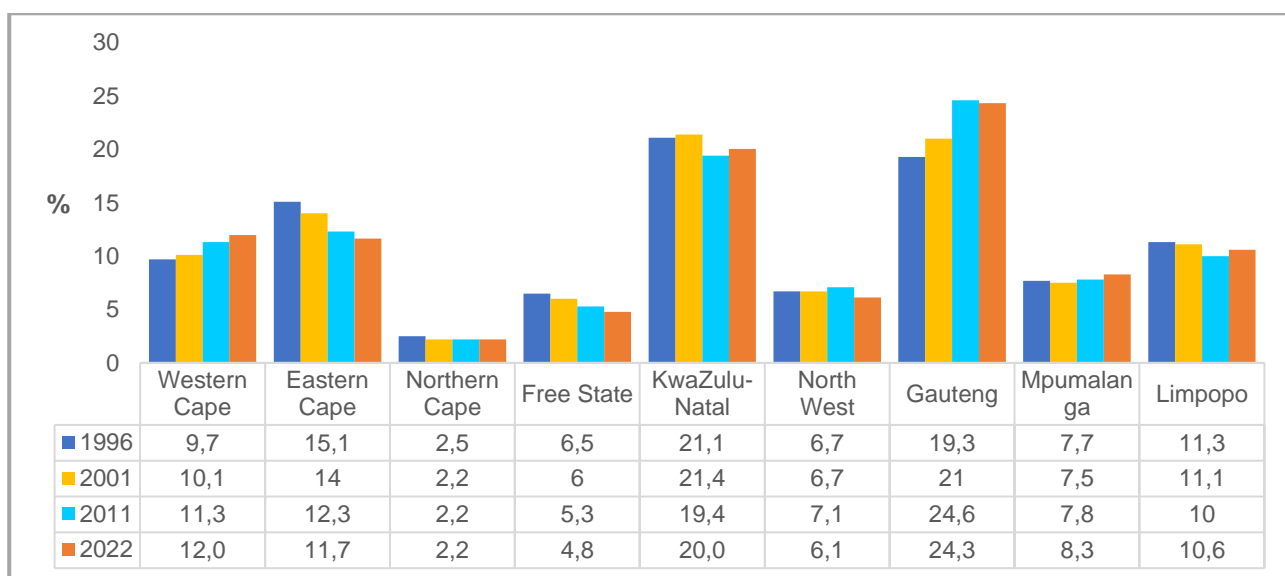
Figure 0.1: Total population by census year, Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022

Figure 0.2 below provides the percentage distribution of the population by province, 1996–2022. The Gauteng province (24,3%), followed by the KwaZulu-Natal (20%) and Western Cape provinces (12%) reported the highest percentage distributions, while Northern Cape (2,2%), followed by Free State (4,8%) reported the least. The pattern also showed that the size of the population has been increasing, especially in the Western Cape and Gauteng. The proportion increased from 9,7% in 1996 to 12% in 2022 in the Western Cape and from 19,3% in 1996 to 24,3% in 2022 in Gauteng. The population has been declining in the Eastern Cape and Free State, and has remained constant (2,2%) between 2001 and 2022 in the Northern Cape province. The North West province reported a slight decrease from 7,1% to 6,1% between 2011 and 2022.

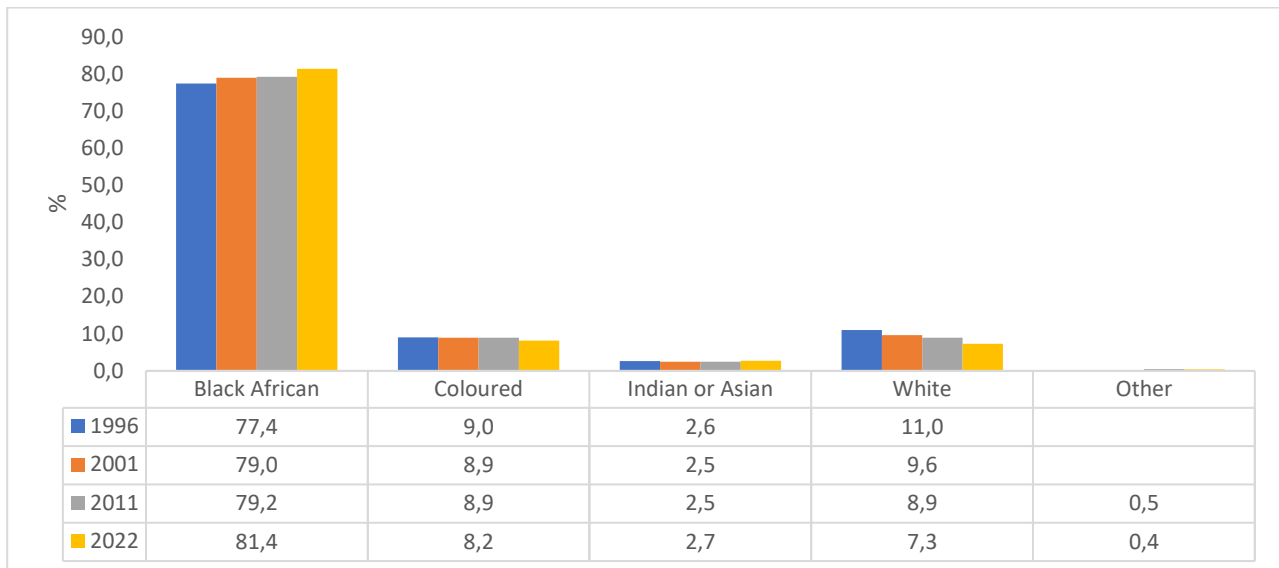
Figure 0.2: Percentage distribution of the population by province, Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

Figure 0.3 presents the percentage distribution of the population by population group in South Africa from Census 1996 to Census 2022. The results show that the proportion of black Africans remains the highest population group in South Africa. The population of black Africans has also been increasing, while the white population has been declining. The proportion of black Africans increased from 79% in 2001 to 79,2% in 2011 and to 81,4% in 2022. The proportion of the white population was 11% in 1996 and declined to 7,3% in 2022. These proportions suggest that slightly over eight in every ten of the South African population are black Africans; less than one in every ten of the population is white. Although insignificant, the Indian/Asian population increased slightly from 2,5% to 2,7% between 2011 and 2022, while the coloured population reported a proportion of 8,2% in 2022.

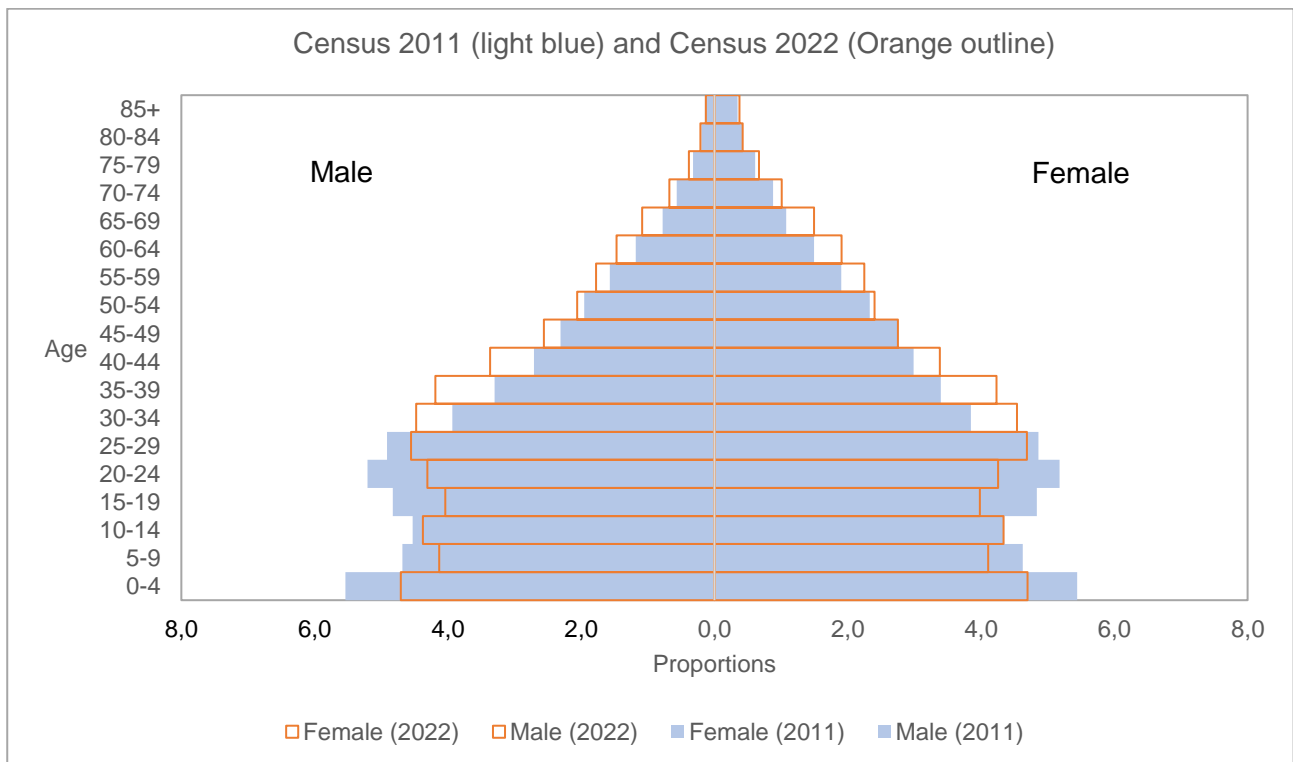
Figure 0.3: Percentage distribution of the population by population group, Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 1996, 2001, 2011 & 2022

Figure 0.4 shows the comparison of the age-sex structure between 2011 and 2022. The analysis of the age-sex structure is one of the most basic ways of understanding population change over time. The results indicate a larger proportion of children aged 0–4 in 2011 compared to 2022, while the overall shapes of the two structures depict a similar shape; between the age groups 5–9 and 15–29 remained larger in 2011 than in 2022. The distribution of persons in the age group 30–74 remained steadily higher in 2022 compared to 2011.

Figure 0.4: Population structure of South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 & 2022

A.1 KEY DRIVING FACTORS OF MIGRATION AND GENERAL CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

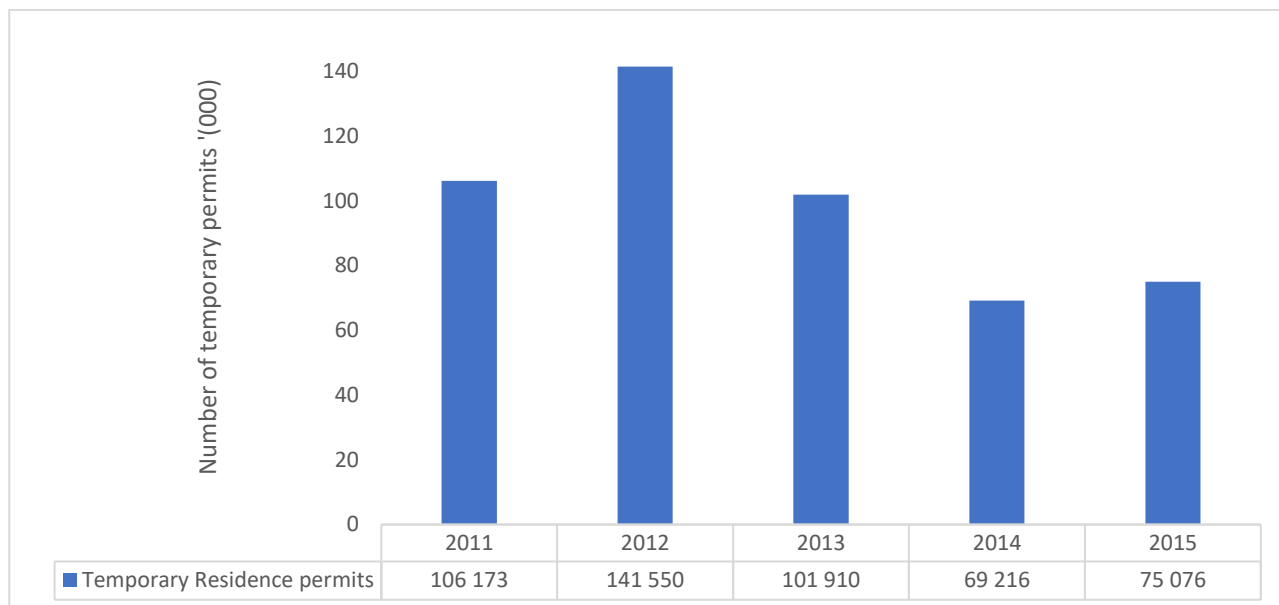
Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all land, air and seaports of arrivals and departures on all travellers (South African residents and migrant travellers) arriving at or departing from South Africa are captured into the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) population Movement Control System (MCS). Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning them or by capturing information from the travel documents onto the port's electronic database. Individual ports regularly transmit the data to the national database at the head office of the DHA.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) downloads the data covering a particular calendar month from the mainframe of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), where the DHA stores its data. The data are processed and used to publish tourism information in the monthly Tourism and Migration statistical release (P0351) to meet users' immediate needs. The cumulative data for 12 months are published in the Tourism Report on an annual basis. Additionally, a statistical release on Documented Immigrants in South Africa (P03051.4) presents information on immigrants into South Africa who were issued with temporary and permanent residence permits. However, the report was last published in 2015, with processes put in place to revive the publication.

A.1.1 Issued permits

Figure 1.1 shows temporary residence permits issued for the years 2011 through to 2015. In 2011, 106 173 permits were issued, indicating a high number of individuals granted temporary residency. This number increased in 2012 to 141 550, but then decreased in the following years. In 2013, 101 910 permits were issued, and this trend continued with 69 216 permits in 2014 and 75 076 in 2015. The total number of permits issued, which combines both permanent residence and temporary residence permits, was 116 184 in 2011. It increased to 142 833 in 2012 but decreased in 2013 to 108 711. In 2014 and 2015, the total number of permits issued was 73 352 and 81 473, respectively.

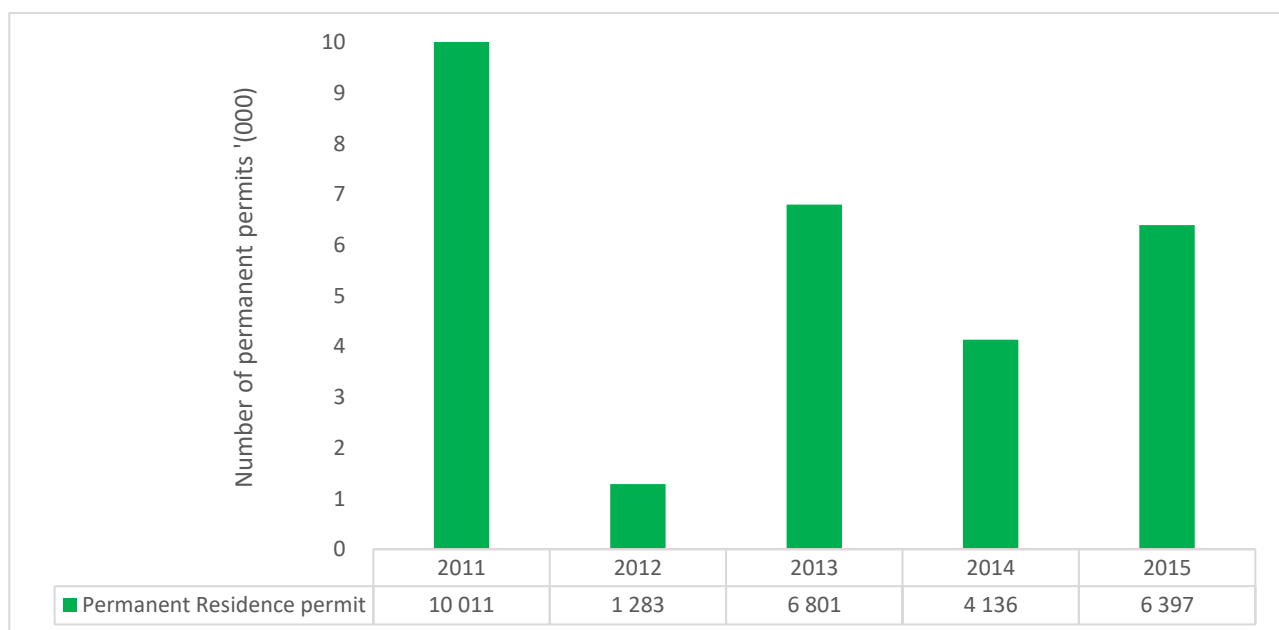
Figure 1.1: Description of temporary permits issued, 2011–2015



Source: Statistics SA, *Documented Immigrants In SA, 2016*

On the other hand, Figure 1.2 below on permanent residence permits showed a different pattern. In 2011, the number of permanent residence permits issued was 10 011, indicating a relatively high number of individuals granted permanent residency in that year. However, this number decreased significantly in 2012 to just 1 283. Subsequently, there was an increase in 2013, with 6 801 permanent residence permits issued. In 2014 and 2015, the numbers continued to fluctuate but remained relatively stable, with 4 136 and 6 397 permits issued, respectively.

Figure 1.2: Description of permanent permits issued, 2011–2015



Source: Statistics SA, *Documented Immigrants in SA, 2016*

This figure provides insights into the fluctuations in permits issuance over these five years, reflecting changes in immigration and residency policies, economic conditions, or other factors that may have influenced the number of individuals granted different types of permits.

Table 1.1 below presents a detailed snapshot of permits issued over a five-year period. Notably, visitor's permits constituted a substantial portion, with a steady increase until 2013, followed by a decline in 2014 and 2015. Family-related permits showed a peak in 2011, gradually decreasing thereafter. Work permits exhibited fluctuations, experiencing a notable rise in 2012 and 2013 but declining sharply in 2015. Conversely, study permits demonstrated consistent growth, indicating a sustained interest in educational opportunities within the country. Permits for medical treatment and business purposes remained relatively stable, representing smaller shares. Waiver permits experienced an increase from 2012 to 2014, followed by a decline in 2015, while retired persons' permits remained consistently low. Other categories, including corporate, exchange, and treaty permits, contributed minimally.

Table 1.1: Number and percentage distribution of recipients of temporary residence permits by type of status, 2011–2015

Permit type	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Visitors	28 468	26,8	44 828	31,7	33 186	32,6	21 350	30,8	23 138	30,8
Relatives	36 135	34,0	37 612	26,6	23 845	23,4	14 918	21,6	22 541	30,0
Work	20 673	19,5	33 253	23,5	24 027	23,6	18 184	26,3	12 354	16,5
Study	16 928	15,9	20 087	14,2	15 378	15,1	11 208	16,2	12 998	17,3
Medical treatment	1 399	1,3	1 870	1,3	1 407	1,4	159	0,2	949	1,3
Business	1 346	1,3	1 585	1,1	1 911	1,9	2 003	2,9	905	1,2
Waiver	0	0,0	1 068	0,8	1 355	1,3	811	1,2	1 143	1,5
Retired persons	732	0,7	980	0,7	680	0,7	504	0,7	875	1,2
Others (corporate, exchange and treaty)	492	0,5	267	0,2	121	0,1	79	0,1	173	0,2
Total	106 173	100,0	141 550	100,0	101 910	100,0	69 216	100,0	75 076	100,0

Source: Documented immigrants in South Africa, Stats SA, 2016

Table 1.2 offers a comprehensive view of the issuance of permanent residence permits from 2011 to 2015, breaking down the data by permit type and percentage distribution. Notably, the table reveals a substantial dominance of relatives in the issuance of permanent residence permits, accounting for the majority of recipients across the five-year period. However, there is a significant decline from 56,5% in 2011 to 20,7% in 2015. Conversely, work-related permits show a contrasting trend, starting as a smaller share in 2011 and experiencing substantial growth to constitute 68,1% in 2015, suggesting a notable shift towards employment-driven permanent migration. Permits related to business and finance contribute consistently but remain a smaller segment, with a decline in 2015. The data also indicate stability in permits granted to retired persons, while refugee-related permits fluctuate and witnessed a notable drop in 2015. Of particular interest is the emergence of waiver permits in 2015, constituting 0,6% of the total, potentially signifying a new trend or policy change in permit issuance.

Table 1.2: Number and percentage distribution of recipients of permanent residence permits by type of status, 2011–2015

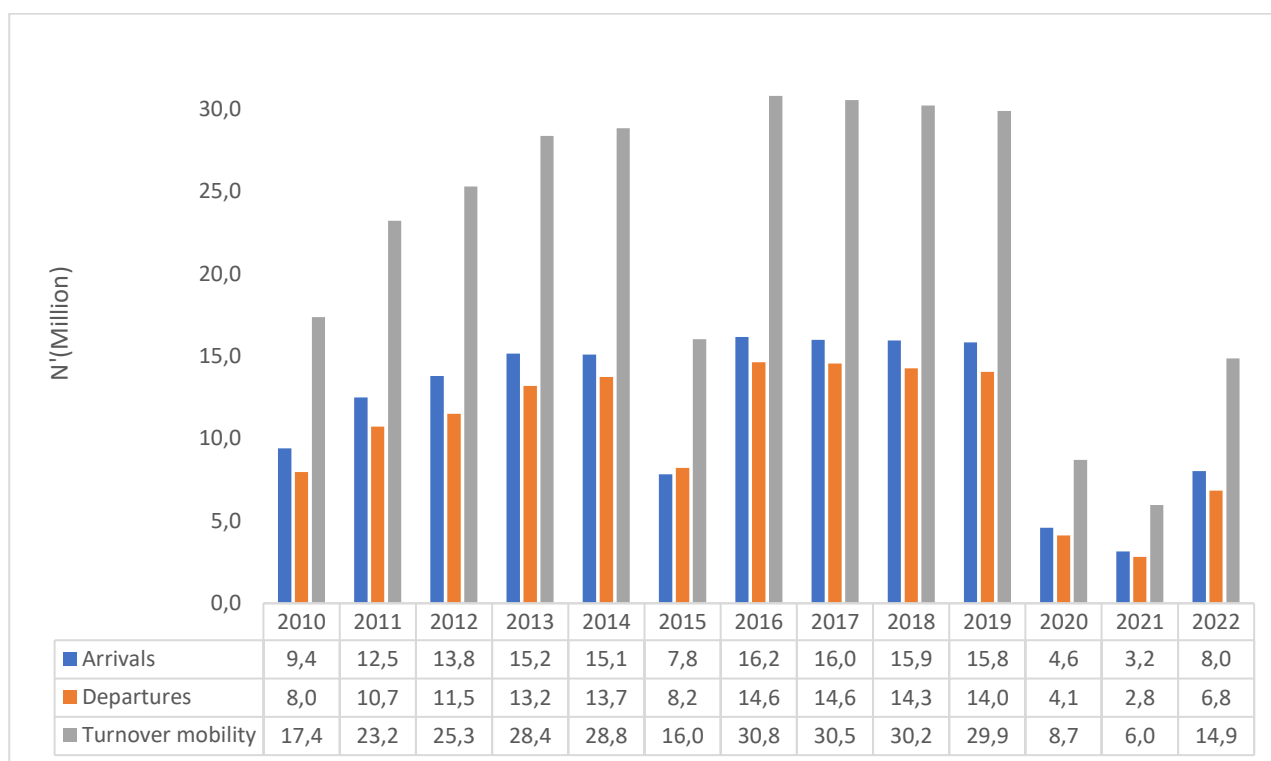
Permit type	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Relatives	5 653	56,5	640	49,9	3 962	58,3	2 613	63,2	1 326	20,7
Work	2 060	20,6	441	34,4	2 152	31,6	1 228	29,7	4 354	68,1
Business and Finance	316	3,2	94	7,3	374	5,5	41	1,0	356	5,6
Retired Persons	318	3,2	58	4,5	176	2,6	90	2,2	117	1,8
Refugee	1 664	16,6	50	3,9	137	2,0	164	4,0	204	3,2
Waiver	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	39	0,6
Total	10 011	100,0	1 283	100,0	6 801	100,0	4 136	100,0	6 396	100,0

Source: *Documented immigrants in South Africa*, Stats SA, 2016

A.1.2 Arrivals and departures

Figure 1.3 provides a comprehensive overview of arrivals and departures spanning from 2010 to 2022, along with turnover mobility figures, indicating the total number of movements within each respective year. The data reveal distinct patterns and fluctuations in travel activities over the specified period. Notably, there is a general upward trend in arrivals and departures from 2010 to 2016, culminating in a peak turnover mobility figure in 2016. This surge could be attributed to various factors such as economic growth, political stability, and increased global connectivity facilitating greater travel and migration. However, the subsequent years show a decline in turnover mobility, suggesting a potential plateau or slowdown in movement trends. Additionally, the data for 2020 and 2021 display a sharp decrease in both arrivals and departures, likely a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic's profound impact on global mobility, leading to travel restrictions, border closures, and decreased international travel.

Figure 1.3: Number of arrivals, departures and turnover mobility of person in million, 2010–2022



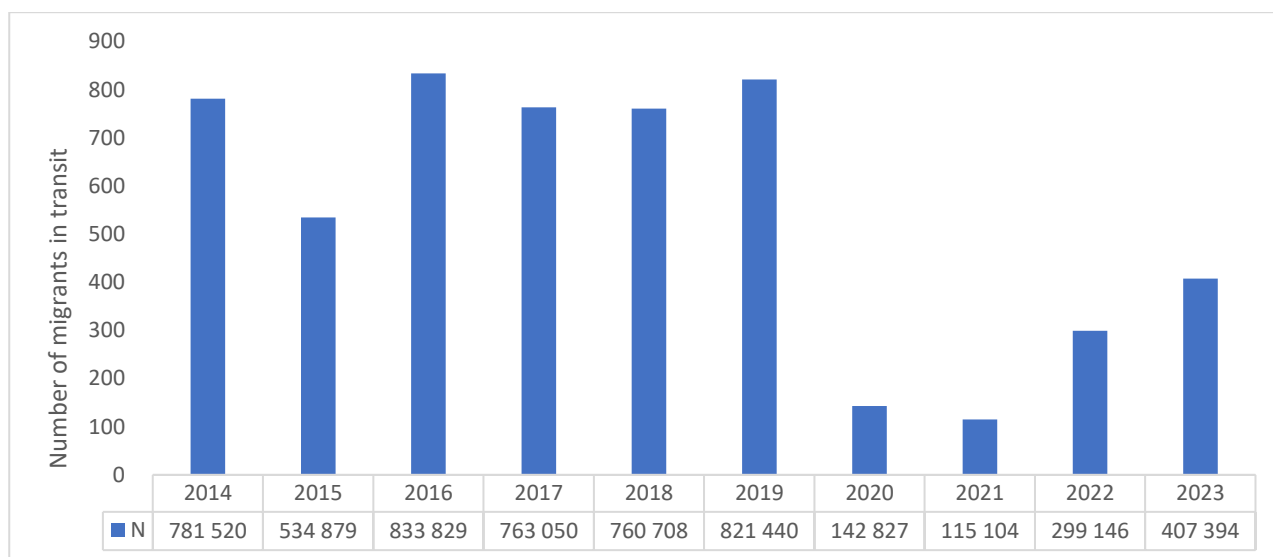
Source: Statistics South Africa, Tourism 2022

A.1.3 Transit migration

Figure 1.4 offers a comprehensive overview of transit migrants from 2014 to 2023. The data reveal fluctuations in the number of transit migrants over the analysed period, reflecting the dynamic nature of migration patterns and external factors influencing migrant movements. In 2014, the total count stood at 781 520 transit migrants, with subsequent years showing varying levels of transit activity. Notably, peaks were observed in 2016 and 2019, with 833 829 and 821 440 transit migrants, respectively. However, there was a significant decline in transit migrants in 2020 and 2021, likely attributable to global disruptions caused by the

COVID-19 pandemic, including travel restrictions and border closures. Nevertheless, by 2023 the numbers had rebounded, reaching 407 394 transit migrants.

Figure 1.4: Number of transit migrants, 2014–2023

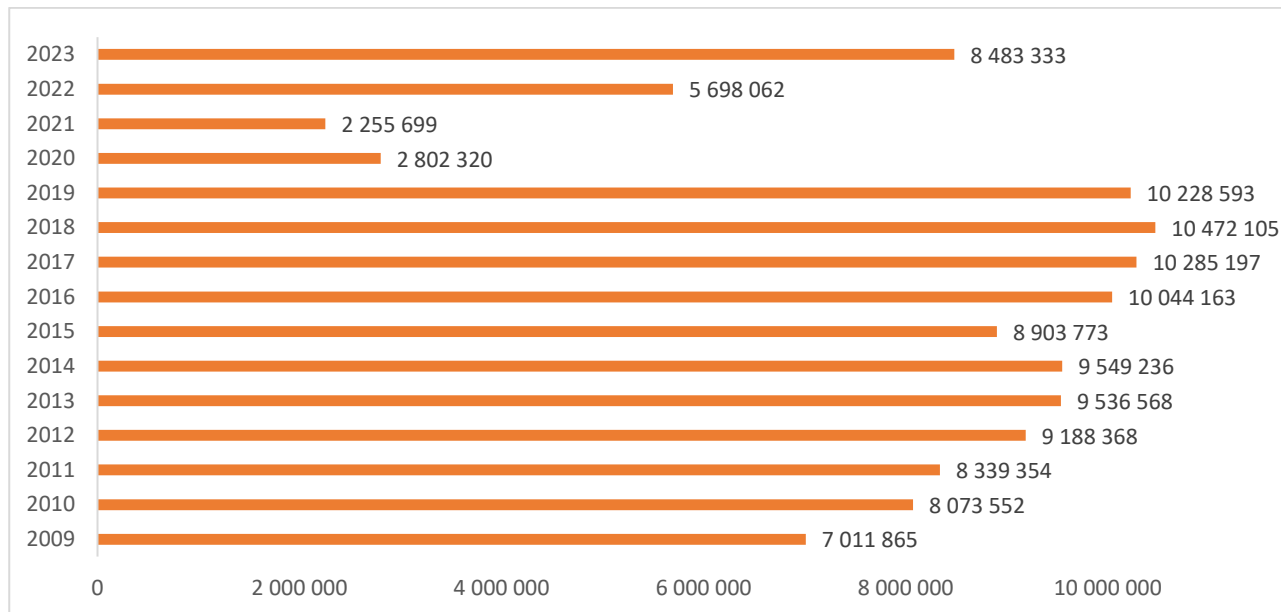


Source: Statistics South Africa, Tourism 2022

A.1.4 Tourists

Figure 1.5 provides a detailed breakdown of tourists by year. The figure covers the years from 2009 to 2023, showing the progression of tourist numbers over time. In 2009, there were 7 011 865 tourists, with numbers steadily increasing over the subsequent years, reaching a peak of 10 044 163 in 2016. This upward trend continued through 2018, with a slight fluctuation in 2017 and 2018, before dipping significantly in 2020 and 2021. The sharp decline in 2020 and 2021 can likely be attributed to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to widespread travel restrictions, reduced tourism activities, and a decline in overall tourist numbers. However, by 2022 and 2023 there was a notable recovery in tourist numbers, with figures reaching 5 698 062 and 8 483 333, respectively. In total, over the entire period there were 120 872 188 tourists.

Figure 1.5: Number of tourists, 2009–2023



Source: Statistics South Africa, Tourism Report 2022

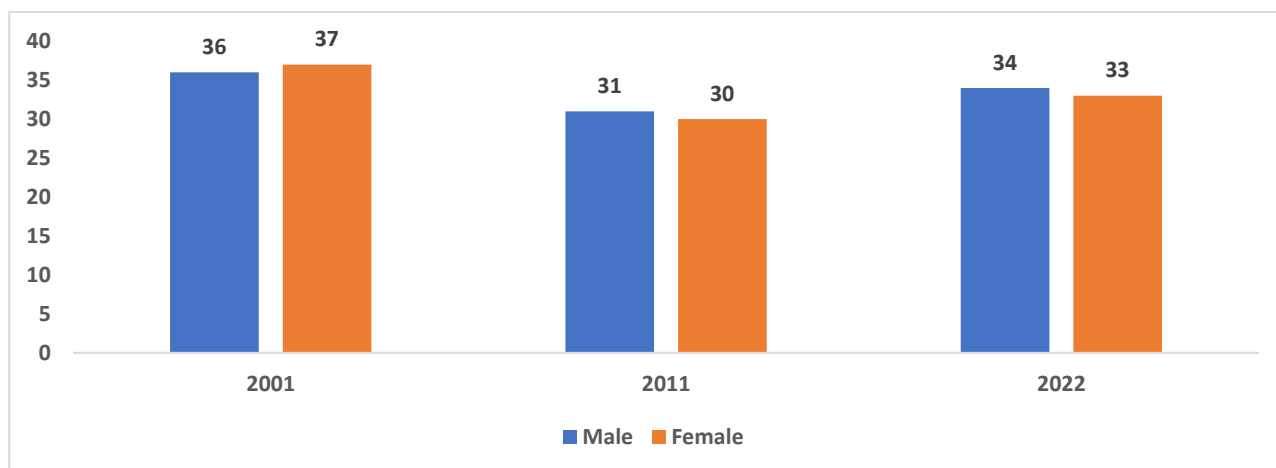
A.2 IMMIGRATION (IMMIGRANT STOCKS)

This section presents key data that exist in the country and internationally to characterise immigrant stocks by age and sex, population group, level of education, province of usual residence, country of birth, employment, and education. Census data in this section excludes do not know, not applicable and unspecified.

A.2.1 Immigration (Immigration Stock)

Figure 2.1 below shows the median age of immigrants by sex. In 2001, the median age of male migrants was 36 years, whilst it was 37 years for female migrants. There was a slight decrease in the median age of migrants in 2011 – 31 years for male and 30 years for female immigrants. In 2022, however, the median age of migrants increased slightly to 34 years among male migrants and 33 years among female migrants.

Figure 2.1: Median age of immigrants by sex, 2001, 2011 and 2022

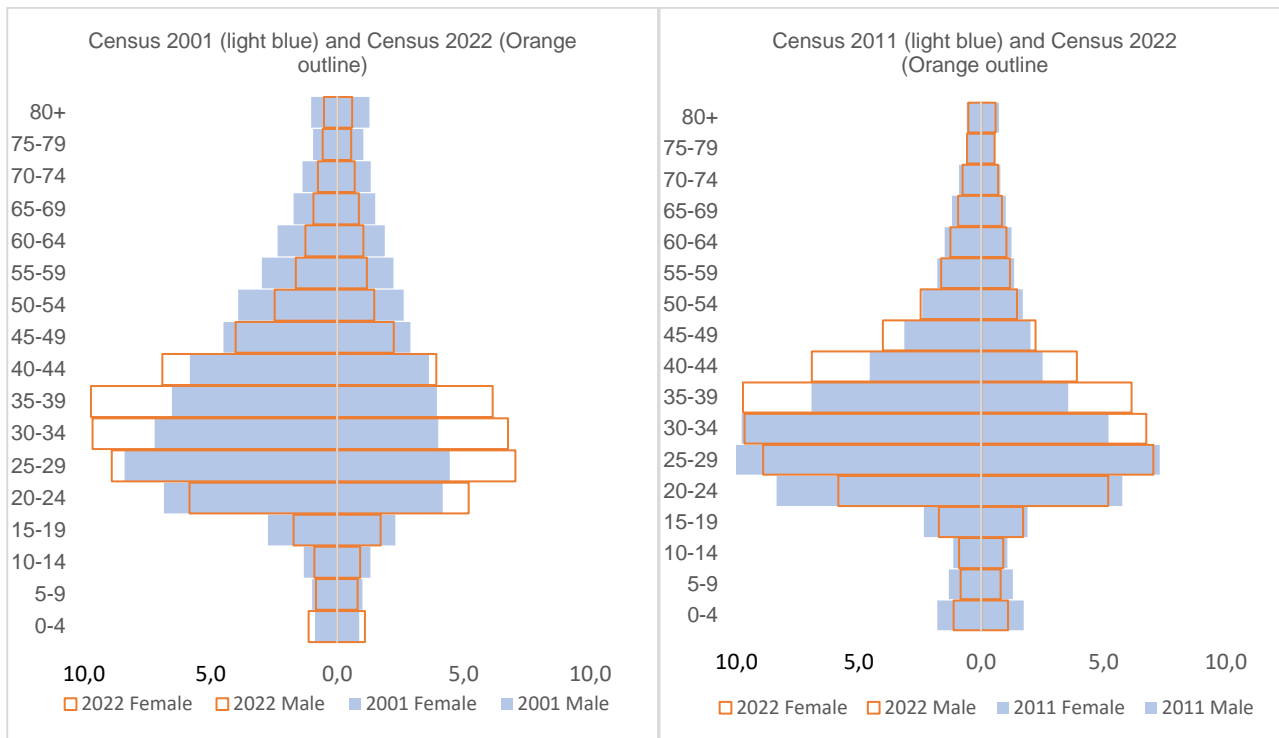


Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022

Figure 2.2 below presents data on the distribution of immigrants by age and sex for the years 2001, 2011, and 2022. In 2001, there were 610 374 male and 414 700 female immigrants. These numbers increased significantly by 2011, with 1 314 633 males and 869 775 females. By 2022, the figures continued to rise, reaching 1 397 983 males and 1 020 223 females, indicating a consistent growth in immigrant numbers.

The figure further breaks down the immigrants by age group, and it is evident that in each year, the largest age group for both males and females was in the 25–29 age range, which suggests that young adults are more likely to migrate internationally. Over the years, the numbers in each age group generally increased, reflecting the overall growth in the immigrant population. This growth was more pronounced in males compared to females, as the male–female gap widened.

Figure 2.2: Age and sex distribution of immigrants, 2001, 2011 and 2022



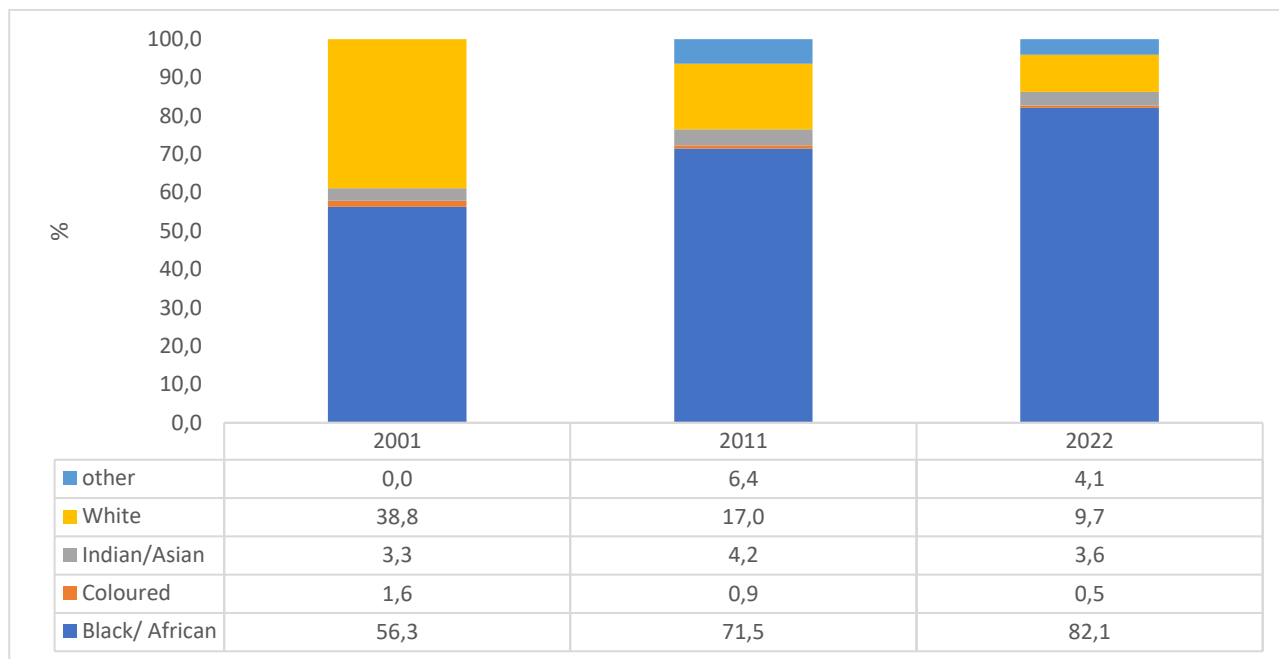
Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022

Figure 2.3 below provides data on the distribution of immigrants by population group for the years 2001, 2011, and 2022. This table is important for understanding the composition of immigrants based on their population group.

In 2001, most immigrants belonged to the black African population group, constituting 56,3% of the total number of migrants. White migrants also made up a substantial portion at 38,8%. Indian/Asian and coloured populations accounted for 3,3% and 1,6%, respectively. There were no data available for the “other” category in 2001 as the variable was only introduced from Census 2011.

By 2011, there was a significant shift in distribution. The black African population group continued to be the largest; their percentage increased to 71,5% of the total migrant population. The white population group saw a decrease in both the number and percentage of migrants. The coloured and Indian/Asian population groups also saw changes in their numbers and percentages. The “other” variable was introduced in 2011, representing 6,4% of the total migrants. In 2022, the distribution further evolved. The black African population group remained the largest, with 82,1% of the total migrant population. The white population group saw a significant decrease in both numbers and percentage. The Indian/Asian and coloured population groups also showed changes in their numbers and percentages. The “other” category continued to be present, representing 4,1% of the total migrants.

Figure 2.3: Percentage distribution of immigrants by population group, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022

Table 2.1 below provides insights into the number of immigrants by citizenship status from Census 2001 to Census 2022. In 2001, out of a total of 1 025 077 immigrants, 585 435 immigrants indicated that they are South African citizens. However, a consistent decline is observed in the number of immigrants who indicated that they are South African citizens. In 2022, there were 529 542 immigrants who indicated that they are South African citizens compared with 582 904 immigrants in 2011.

Table 2.1: Citizenship status of immigrants, 2001, 2011 and 2022

Citizenship	2001	2011	2022
South African citizens	585 435	582 904	529 542
Non-South African citizens	439 642	1 541 942	1 828 375
Total	1 025 077	2 124 846	2 357 917

Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022

Note: Excludes do not know and unspecified cases.

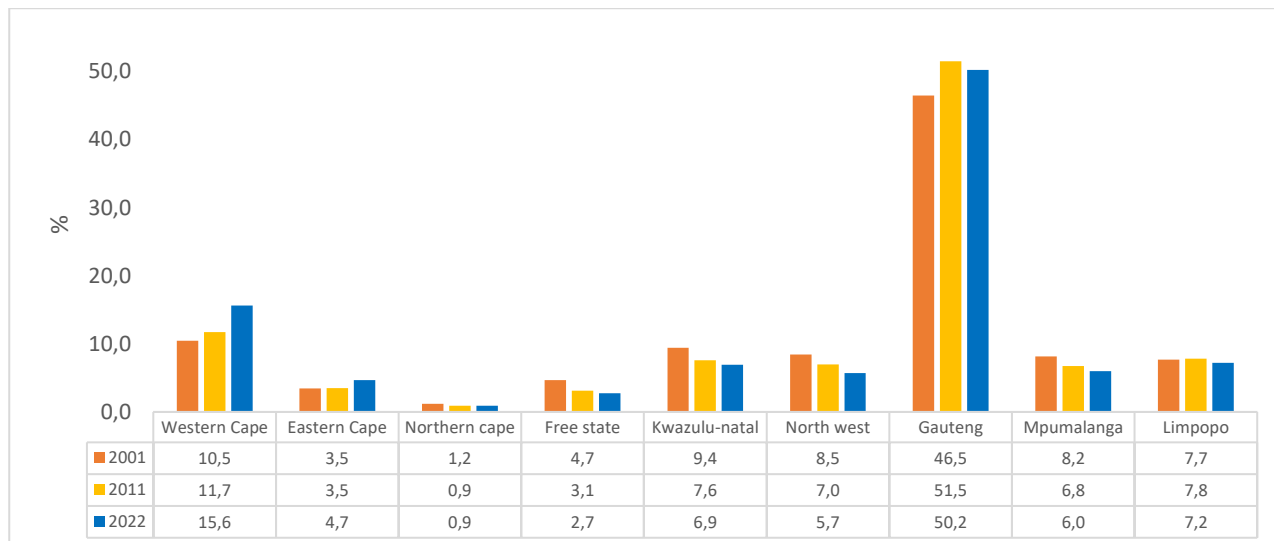
Figure 2.4 below provides data on the distribution of immigrants by the province of usual residence for the years 2001, 2011 and 2022. This figure offers insights into the geographic distribution of immigrants within the country.

In 2001, the province with the highest number of immigrants was Gauteng, accounting for 46,5% of the total migrant population. The Western Cape also had a notable percentage of 10,5%. The other provinces had varying percentages, with KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape being among the significant contributors.

By 2011, the distribution shifted slightly. Gauteng remained the province with the highest number of immigrants, with a higher percentage of 51,5%. The Western Cape also saw an increase in both numbers and percentage.

In 2022, the distribution continued to evolve. Gauteng remained the province with the highest number of immigrants, contributing 50,2% of the total migrant population. The Western Cape also continued to see growth in both numbers and percentage, making up 15,6%. Other provinces had varying percentages, with changes in the numbers of migrants.

Figure 2.4: Percentage distribution of immigrants by province of usual residence, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Stats SA Census 2001, 2011 and 2022
 Note: Excludes do not know and unspecified cases.

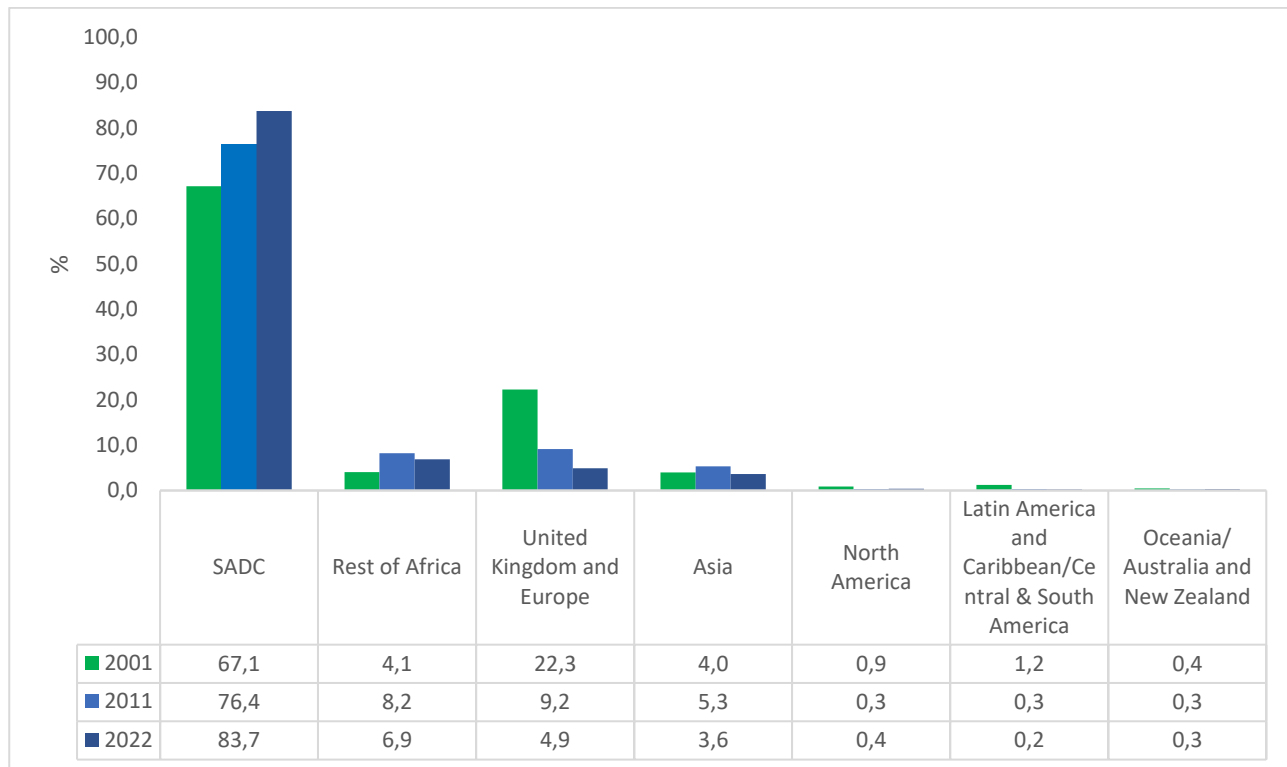
Figure 2.5 below presents data on the distribution of immigrants in South Africa by the region of their birth for the years 2001, 2011 and 2022. This figure offers insights into the geographic origins of immigrants and how these origins have evolved over time.

In 2001, most immigrants came from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, accounting for 67,1% of the total migrant population. This reflects the significance of neighbouring countries in contributing to South Africa's immigrant population. The second-largest group was from the United Kingdom and Europe, making up 22,3%, with smaller contributions from the rest of Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania.

By 2011, the distribution had shifted. The SADC region continued to be the largest source of immigrants, but its percentage increased to 76,4%. The United Kingdom and Europe saw a decrease in both numbers and percentage. There was also a noticeable increase in the number of migrants from the rest of Africa.

In 2022, the distribution further evolved. The SADC region remained the dominant source, contributing 83,7% of the total immigrant population. The United Kingdom and Europe saw a significant decrease, with only 4,9%. The rest of Africa and Asia also made up a smaller proportion. It is noteworthy to mention that this total excludes unspecified and do not know cases.

Figure 2.5: Percentage distribution of immigrants by region of birth, 2001, 2011 and 2022



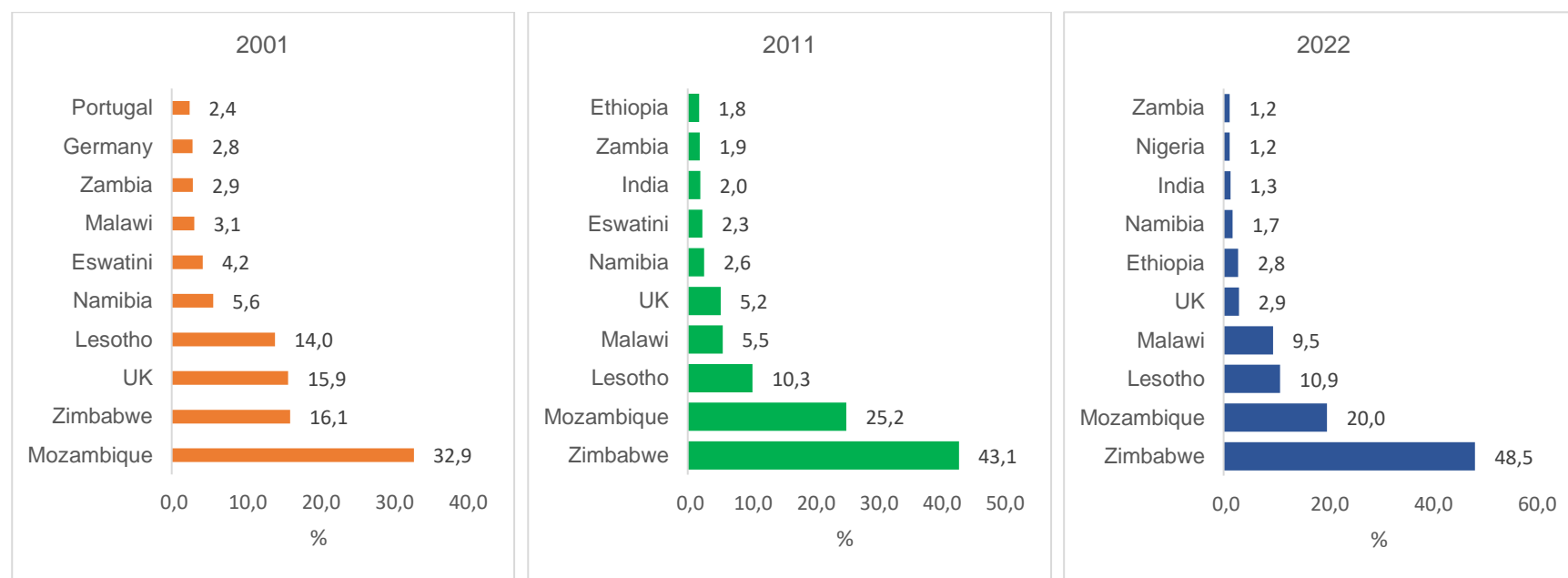
Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022

Figures 2.6 below provides data on the distribution of immigrants to South Africa from the top 10 migration sending countries for the years 2001, 2011 and 2022. This table highlights the significant countries of origin for migrants and how their representation has changed over time.

In 2001, the largest group of migrants came from Mozambique, constituting 32,9% of the total immigrant population. Zimbabwe was the second-largest group, making up 16,1%. The United Kingdom/Great Britain and Lesotho were also significant contributors, with 15,9% and 14,0%, respectively. Other countries in the top 10 included Namibia, Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia, Germany, and Portugal.

By 2011, distribution had evolved. Zimbabwe became the leading country of origin, contributing 43,1% of the total migrant population, while Mozambique remained important at 25,2%. Lesotho, Malawi, and the United Kingdom/Great Britain were also notable contributors. In 2022, Zimbabwe remained the leading country of origin, with 48,5% of the total migrant population. Mozambique was the second-largest contributor at 20,0%.

Figure 2.6: Percentage distribution of top 10 sending countries to South Africa, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022
 Note: UK refers to the United Kingdom/Great Britain.

A.2.2 Immigration for employment

This module presents data on labour migration. The section is based on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), Quarter 3 of 2012, 2017 and 2022. The QLFS is a quarterly continuous household survey, with a representative sample of approximately 32 000 dwelling units across the country. It collects detailed labour market information from persons of working age (15 - 64 years). The Migration module is attached to QLFS every 5 years. Limitation of the module is that the QLFS may not capture all migrant-born individuals due to clustering as immigrants are not evenly distributed across the sampled dwelling units (DUs).

Table 2.2 below provides data on the distribution of employed persons by migratory status in South Africa for the years 2012, 2017 and 2022. The share of immigrants who are in employment increased over time. In 2012, migrant-born individuals constituted 6,0% of the total employed workforce in South Africa. South African-born persons made up most of the employed workforce, accounting for 94,0% of the total. The total number of employed individuals in 2012 was 14 561 615.

By 2017, the percentage of immigrant individuals in the employed workforce had increased to 7,7%, while the percentage of South African-born persons had decreased to 92,3%. The total number of employed individuals in 2017 was 16 190 173. In 2022, the trend continued with migrant-born individuals making up 8,9% of the total employed workforce, while South African-born persons constituted 91,1%. The total number of employed individuals in 2022 was 15 761 396.

Table 2.2: Distribution of the employed by migratory status, 2012, 2017 and 2022

Migratory status	2012		2017		2022	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Born outside SA (immigrants)	871 165	6,0	1 251 477	7,7	1 396 826	8,9
South African-born persons	13 690 451	94,0	14 938 696	92,3	14 364 570	91,1
Total	14 561 615	100,0	16 190 173	100,0	15 761 396	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa, QLFS 2012, 2017 & 2022

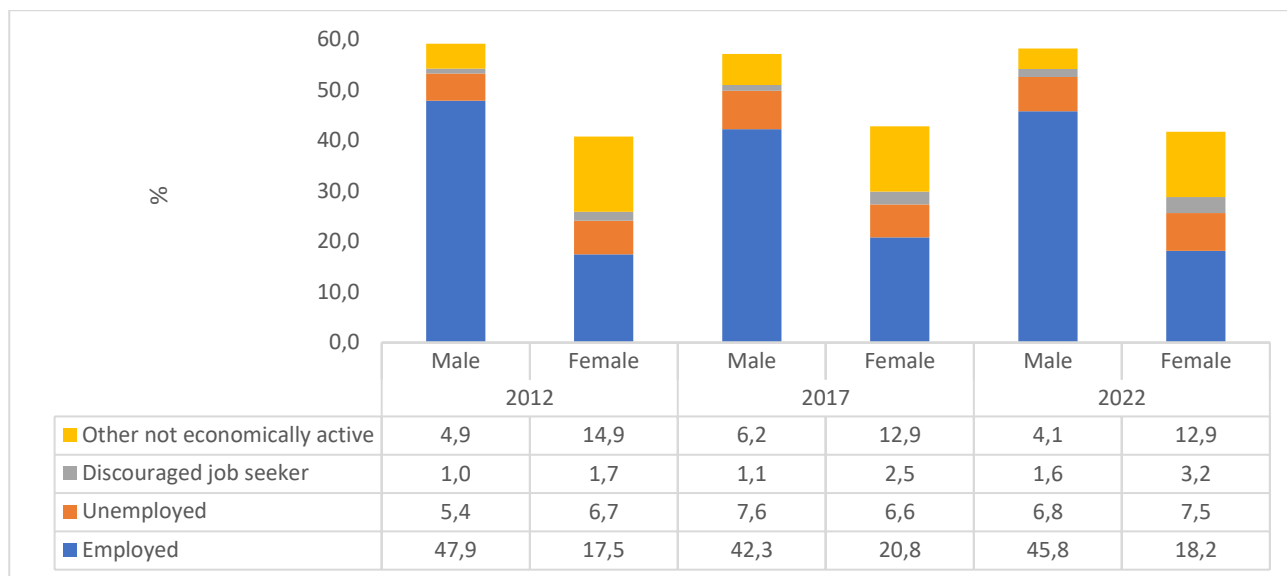
Figure 2.7 below provides data on the percentage distribution of immigrants by labour market status and sex for Quarter 3 of 2012, 2017 and 2022. This figure offers insights into the employment and economic activity of migrant populations and how it varies by sex.

In 2012 among immigrants 47,9% males and 17,5% females were employed. Whilst 14,9% female immigrants and only 4,9% immigrant males were not economically active.

By 2017, the labour market status of immigrants experienced a shift whereby 42,3% of males and 20,8% females were employed. Among male immigrants, 7,6% and 6,6% females were unemployed.

In 2022, the distribution continued to evolve. The results indicate that among immigrants, females (7,5%) still experienced high unemployment percentage as compared to their males (6,8%) counterparts 78,7%. Majority of females (12,9%) are not economically active, whilst, only 4,1% immigrant males are not economically active.

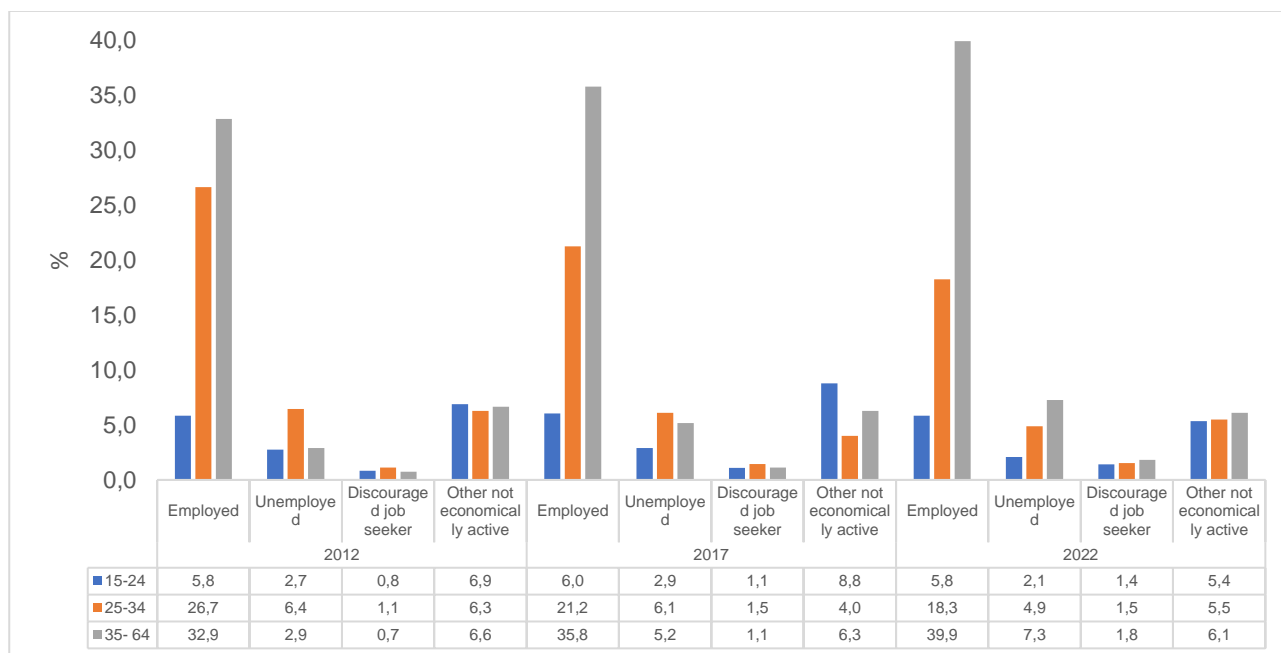
Figure 2.7: Percentage distribution of immigrants by labour market status and sex, 2012, 2017 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, QLFS 2012, 2017 & 2022

Figure 2.8 below presents a percentage distribution of immigrants by age and labour market status for the years 2012, 2017 and 2022 in South Africa. The results reveal distinct patterns of labour market status for different age groups over time. Overall, the figure below shows that immigrants are employed, and this is followed by immigrants that are not economically active. In terms of age, immigrants aged 35-64 years were mostly employed followed by immigrants aged 25-34. On the other hand, there is an observed slight increase in the percentage of immigrants who are unemployed and discouraged job seekers.

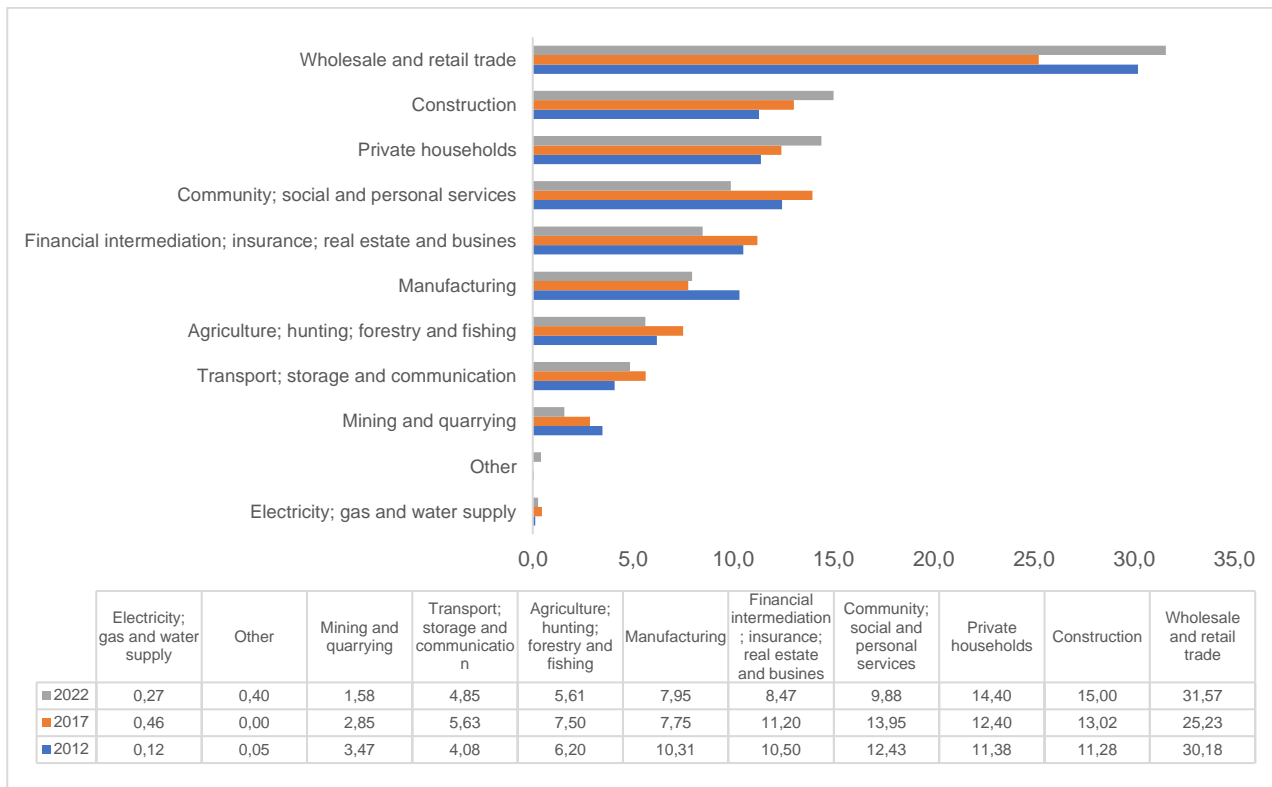
Figure 2.8: Percentage distribution of immigrants by age and labour market status, 2012, 2017 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, QLFS 2012, 2017 & 2022

Figure 2.9 below offers a comprehensive view of the employment distribution of immigrants in 2012, 2017 and 2022, categorised by employment industry. Employment in the electricity, gas, and water supply sector exhibited fluctuations, initially rising from 0,12% in 2012 to 0,46% in 2017 before declining to 0,27% in 2022. Conversely, employment in the mining and quarrying sector saw a significant decrease from 3,47% in 2012 to 1,58% in 2022, indicative of a declining workforce in these industries. The transportation, storage, and communication sector experienced moderate growth, reaching 5,63% in 2017 before slightly decreasing to 4,85% in 2022. In contrast, the wholesale and retail trade sector demonstrated consistent growth, increasing from 30,18% in 2012 to 31,57% in 2022, highlighting its enduring significance in workforce allocation. Additionally, the construction sector experienced substantial growth, with employment rising from 11,28% in 2012 to 15,00% in 2022, underscoring increased activity in construction-related industries.

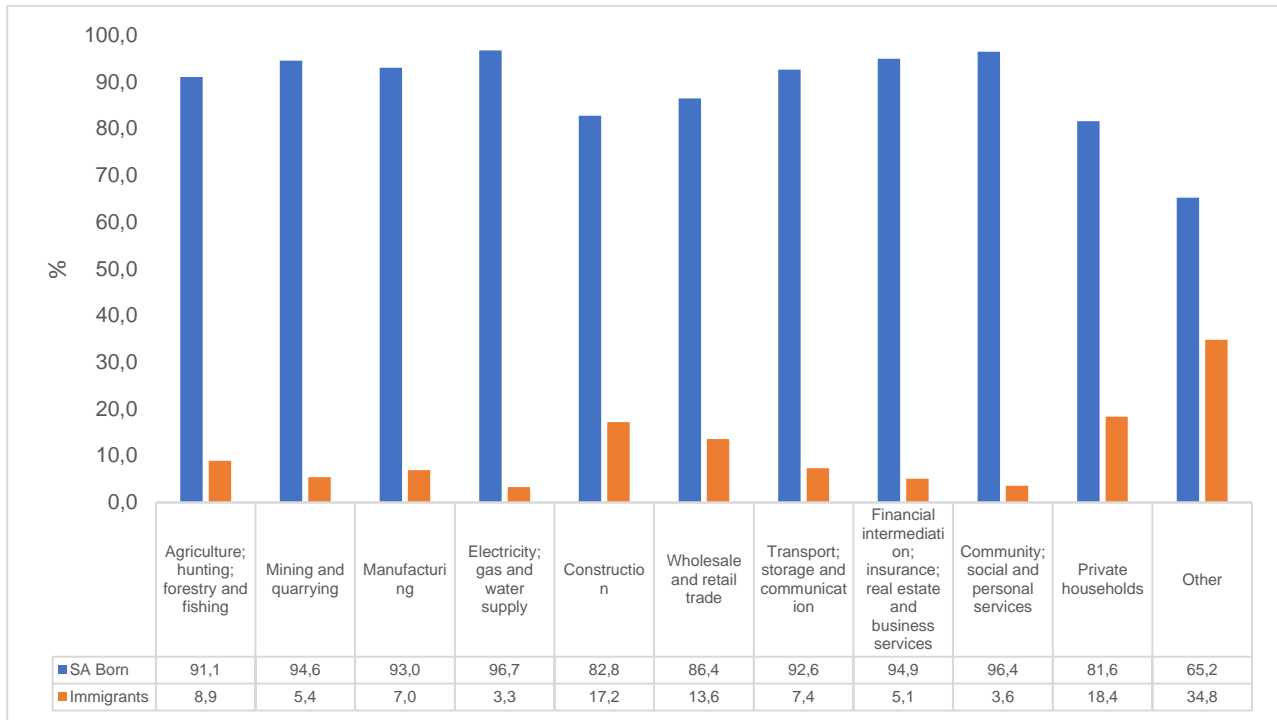
Figure 2.9: Percentage distribution of immigrants by employment industry, 2012, 2017 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, QLFS 2012, 2017, 2022, Q3

Figure 2.10 below shows the percentage distribution of the employed population by industry and migratory status using the QLFS 2022 Quarter 3 data. The results indicate that the highest percentage share of immigrants employed by industry worked in private households at 18,4%. Whilst the highest percentage share of South African born is employed in the electricity, gas and water supply with 96,7%.

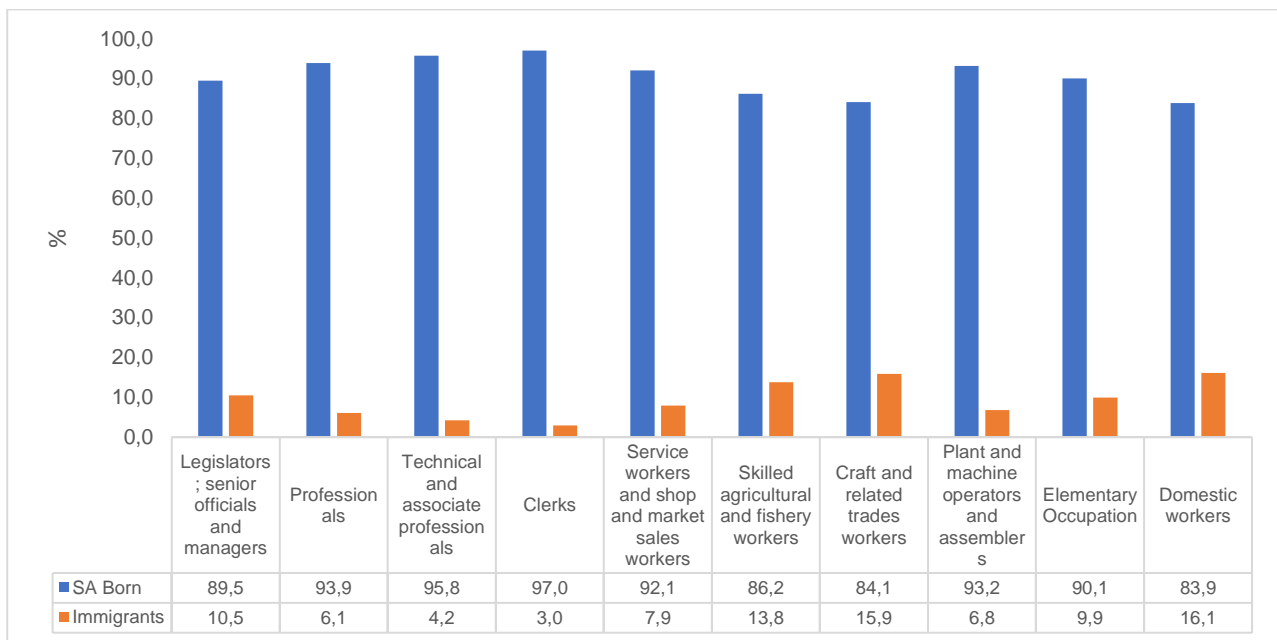
Figure 2.10: Percentage distribution of the employed by industry and migratory status, 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, QLFS 2022, Q3

Figure 2.11 below shows the percentage distribution of the employed population by migratory status using the QLFS 2022 Quarter 3 data. The results indicate that the percentage share of immigrants employed as domestic workers is 16%. The percentage share of immigrants employed as craft-related trades workers is 15,8%.

Figure 2.11: Percentage distribution of the employed by occupation and migratory status, Q3: 2022



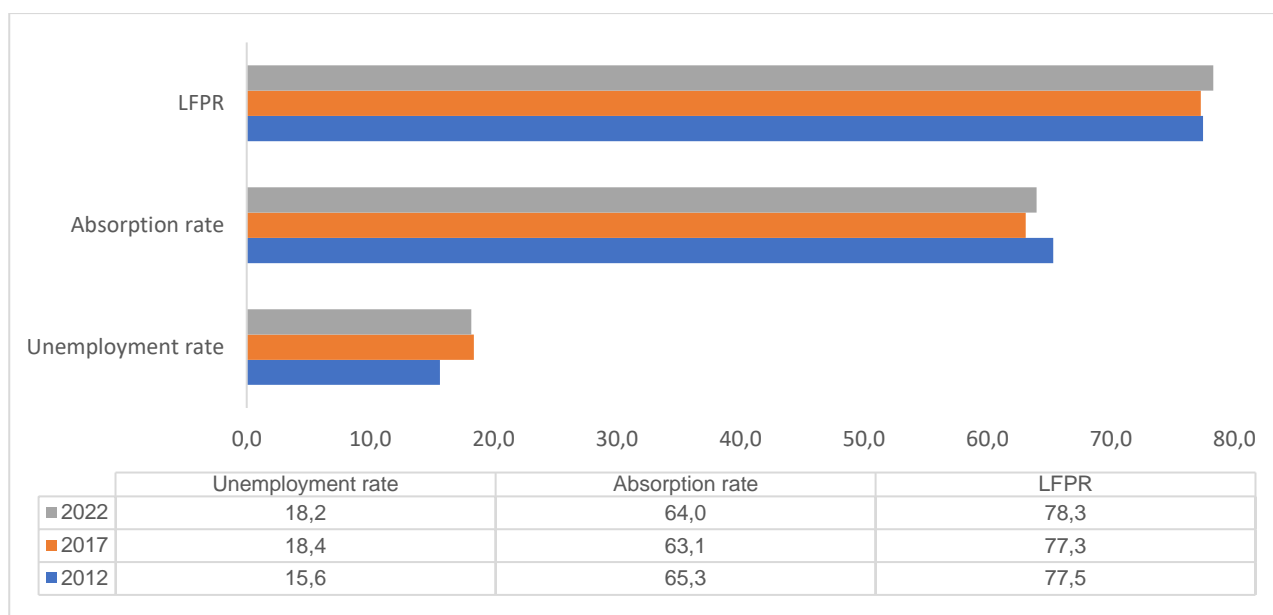
Source: Statistics South Africa, QLFS Q3: 2022

Figure 2.12 below provides data on immigrant employment rates for the years 2012, 2017, and 2022, presenting key indicators such as unemployment rate, absorption rate, and labour force participation rate (LFPR). In 2012, the unemployment rate among immigrants was 15,6%, indicating the percentage of individuals actively seeking employment but unable to find work. This rate slightly increased to 18,4% in 2017 and further rose to 18,2% by 2022, suggesting challenges in securing employment opportunities among immigrant populations over the analysed period.

The absorption rate, which represents the percentage of immigrants who successfully entered the labour market, stood at 65,3% in 2012, indicating a considerable portion of immigrants being absorbed into the workforce. This rate decreased to 63,1% and increased to 64,0% signalling a fluctuation in the proportion of immigrants finding employment opportunities.

The labour force participation rate (LFPR), which measures the percentage of the working-age population actively participating in the labour force, was 77,5% among immigrants in 2012. This rate slightly decreased to 77,3% by 2017 and increased to 78,3%, indicating a fluctuation in labour force participation. However, by 2022, the LFPR declined to 78,3%, suggesting a slight decrease in immigrant labour force participation over the analysed period.

Figure 2.12: Immigrant employment rates, 2012, 2017 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, QLFS 2012, 2017 & 2022, Q3

Case Study 1: The Department of Employment and Labour

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR; COMMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT EQUITY (CEE)

Every year, the Department of Employment and Labour monitors the impact of legislation in the South African labour market. With the Employment Equity Act, the department implements affirmative action measures to redress the disadvantaged in employment experienced by designated groups, to ensure their equitable representation in all occupational levels in the workforce. The information contained in the annual Commission for Employment Equity (CEE) reports remains relevant in the South African labour market because of the high level of labour market inequality in the process of employment creation and decent work.

Table C1.1 below presents figures for employees born outside South Africa in designated companies across various occupational levels from 2019 to 2022, categorised by sex as reported in the employment equity database. In the upper echelons of top management, there was a marginal decline in both male and female employees, with figures hovering around 1 300 to 1 600 for males and 295 to 315 for females across these years. Notable shifts were observed in professionally qualified specialists and mid-management roles, witnessing a remarkable surge in male employees from 11 789 in 2019 to 19 338 in 2022, while female employees increased from 4 698 to 10 495 during the same period. Temporary positions exhibited fluctuations, peaking at around 20 935 for males and 10 847 for females in 2021 but plummeting to 10 921 males and 4 699 females in 2022. Senior management displayed substantial fluctuations, notably surging to 23 428 males and 7 560 females in 2020 before sharply declining to 3 343 males and 1 167 females in 2022. Skilled technical and academically qualified workers showcased a remarkable upturn in 2022, reaching 22 612 males and 7 875 females from lower figures in previous years. Meanwhile, semi-skilled and unskilled positions maintained varying counts across the years, with minor fluctuations but a general decrease observed by 2022 compared with 2019. Overall, the total number of immigrants employees from designated companies remained relatively stable across these years, despite significant fluctuations in specific occupational levels, notably highlighted in the data for 2022.

Table C1.1: Immigrants employees from designated companies, 2019–2022

Occupational levels*	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Top management	1 647	313	1 461	295	1 420	309	1 385	315
Senior management	3 649	1 212	3 288	1 132	3 217	1 093	3 343	1 167
Professional qualified	11 789	4 698	11 033	4 494	11 156	4 652	10 921	4 699
Skilled	24 018	7 846	23 428	7 560	22 674	7 636	22 612	7 875
Semi-skilled	50 006	8 181	46 411	8 102	46 520	8 086	46 126	8 468
Unskilled	37 951	10 759	36 420	10 351	35 878	11 203	36 295	11 485
Temporary employees	19 770	8 882	18 513	8 862	20 935	10 847	19 338	10 495
Total	148 830	41 891	140 554	40 796	141 800	43 826	140 020	44 504

Source: Department of Employment and Labour Employment, 23rd Commission (CEE) Annual Report

***Note:** Description of the six occupational levels and not categories are aligned to the Skills Development Act that relates to work skills position and contribution of the employee at given designated companies. Details are also provided in Appendix F - CEE Annual Report 2022/23, p124 (Caution: Not to be compared with QLFS data. It is only based on reports submitted by designated companies.)

Additional migrant statistics from the Department of Employment and Labour are drawn from the Unemployment Insurance Fund's SIYAYA system. The vision of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) is to strive to contribute to

the alleviation of poverty in South Africa by providing effective short-term unemployment insurance to all workers who qualify for unemployment insurance and other related benefits. Its strategic outcome-orientated goals are to:

- (i) *Improve payment of benefits to UIF beneficiaries;*
- (ii) *Improve collection of revenue from employers;*
- (iii) *Participate in government initiatives to create and sustain decent employment; and*
- (iv) *Provide effective administration of the Fund's operations.*

In pursuing its objectives, migrant workers also qualify for ordinary unemployment benefits if they meet set requirements. The fund derives its mandate from the Unemployment Insurance Act, 2001 (Act No. 63 of 2001) as amended. The Act empowers the UIF to register all employers and employees in South Africa and pay those who qualify for unemployment insurance benefits, including migrant workers. The UIF data presented below are drawn from the fund's SIYAYA system, which keeps the records of all registered workers for administration purposes. Table C1.2 below presents the figures for migrant unemployed who had submitted UI claims at the UIF that resulted in approval and full payments from 2020–2022. During the period under review, migrant UIF claimants were predominantly males in the South African labour market as per the UIF database. Similar trends are also observed for those migrants who received full payments on their UIF applications. Overall, the total number of migrant unemployed UIF claimants remained relatively low by sex (males with 6 098 and females with 1 500) over the three years.

Table C1.2: Distribution of approved and paid ordinary/unemployment benefits for immigrants by year and sex

Year	Approved Ordinary/Unemployment Benefits		Finalised: Paid in Full	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
2020	419	1 720	122	454
2021	895	3 433	396	1 155
2022	186	945	41	180
Total	1 500	6 098	559	1 789

Source: Department of Employment and Labour Employment, Unemployment Insurance Fund – Siyaya Database (April 2020 – March 2022)

A.2.3 Immigrant learners and students in the South African education sector

This module provides a description of immigrant learners and students, to identify the level or enrolment by main countries of origin and the types of educational institutions. Immigrant learners can be defined as learners who crossed an international border at some point in their life and are enrolled in an educational institution of some sort.

A.2.3.1 Immigrant learners within Basic Education

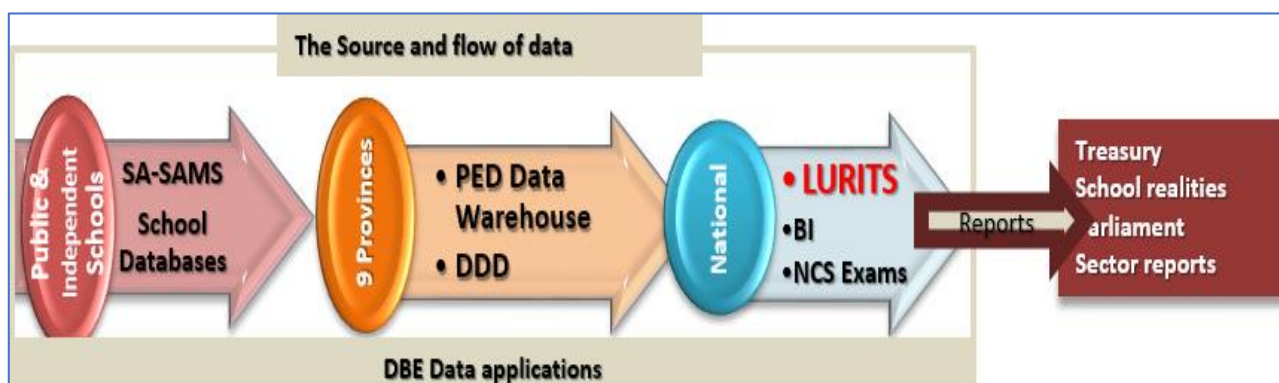
The Basic Education sector requires data to report on the shape and size as well as the effectiveness of the education delivery, and to plan appropriate support and resource allocation to education institutions. The South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996 [s59]) and the National Education Information Policy mandates the Department of Basic Education (DBE) Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) to collect school data for statistical purposes that include learner, educator and school information which are used for reporting. The data collection includes all learners and staff, South African and non-South African, in the public, independent and special schools' environment. The data inform the calculation of the National Treasury equitable share allocation of the education component, producing statistical reports, assessing the performance of the sector, registration of Grade 12 learners in the National Senior Certificate examination, as well as for planning to support institutions to enrich and improve learner performance.

To keep abreast with the 21st century, the Department of Basic Education enhanced its collection method from collection of aggregated data via the conduction of two surveys on an annual basis, to the collection of unit-level administrative data through implementing a series of information systems/applications, maintained by the DBE in order to source and supply disaggregated data for the basic education sector. The applications are designed to enhance the flow of data for effective data reporting, and the process depends on using a standardised school administration system that is made freely available to all schools on data that are self-reported by schools.

To assist with the data collection process, a departmentally owned and maintained school administration system, called the South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS), was developed to assist schools with their data administration, management and reporting.

Provincial education departments collect the data that are uploaded onto the DBE national data warehouse, called the Learner Unit Record Information and Tracking System (LURITS), that is designed to be the single source for reporting at a national level. LURITS contains school information with unit record data for each learner and educator in South Africa, from pre-Grade R through to Grade 12. The system is designed to allocate a learner to an institution at any point in time and the historical data can be used to track the movement of each learner from school to school throughout their schooling career. As a national database, inter-provincial movement of learners can also be traced to the country of origin as well for foreign learners. The SA-SAMS is currently a stand-alone system at schools, and DBE is in the process of migrating it to a web-enabled solution.

Figure 2.13: DBE information systems to enhance the flow of data

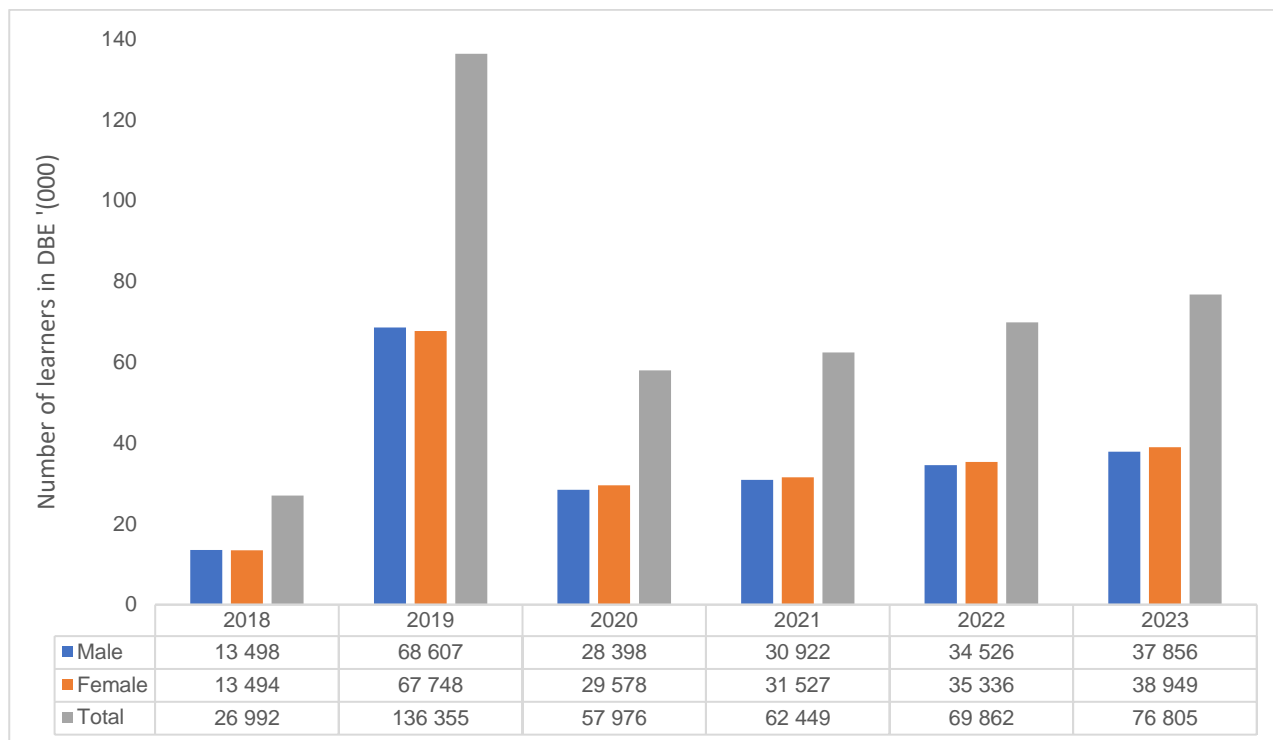


Department of basic education

The DBE ceased to conduct surveys in 2017, in favour of making use of administrative systems compulsory from 2018. Therefore, the data on migration during the years of transition may have a lower response rate, however, over the previous 5 years the processes and systems have matured with improved data response rates and data quality.

Figure 2.14 below illustrates the distribution of immigrant children in basic education by sex across the years from 2018 to 2023. In 2018, there were 13 498 male and 13 494 female immigrant children, resulting in a total of 26 992 learners. Over subsequent years, the number of immigrant learners increased steadily for both sexes. By 2019, there were 68 607 male and 67 748 female immigrant learners, bringing the total to 136 355. In 2020, the trend continued with 28 398 male and 29 578 female immigrant learners, totalling 57 976. Finally, in 2023 the number of immigrant learners further increased to 37 856 males and 38 949 females, with a total of 76 805 learners.

Figure 2.14: Distribution of immigrant learners in basic education by sex, 2018–2023



Source: Department of Basic Education

A.2.3.2 Immigrant learners within Higher Education and Training

This module aims to provide a description of immigrant learners within the Higher Education and Training Centres, to identify main countries of origin and the types of educational institutions. Data on international students who are studying in South Africa are collected by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), which seeks to improve the capacity of the post-School education and training. The data are further supplemented by data provided by the Department of Home Affairs, which provides and approves various permits including for study purposes.

DHET has oversight over four main categories of Post-school Education and Training in South Africa (PSET) institutions, namely: public and private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges; Community Education and Training (CET) colleges; and private colleges.

DHET draws its data from several internal and external databases, as well as from management reports provided by DHET entities. These include:

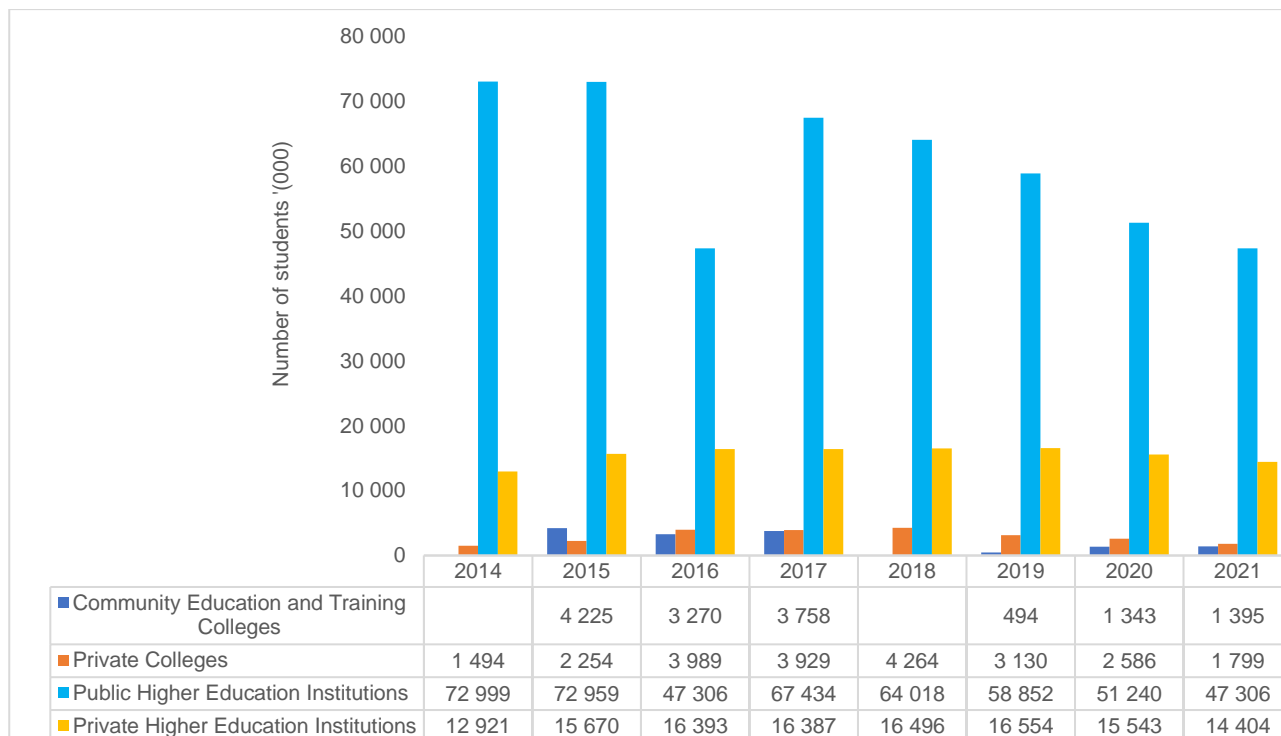
1. The Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), which contains data provided to the Department by public HEIs;
2. Annual reports submitted by registered private HEIs;
3. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Management Information System (TVETMIS), which contains data provided to the department by TVET colleges;
4. CET unit-level record data for student enrolment and Annual Survey data, which contain staff data for CET colleges;

5. Annual Survey data submitted to the department, which contain data for registered private colleges;
6. The National Examinations Database, which contains administrative data about student examinations and certification for the General Education and Training Certificate-Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC-ABET), the National Certificate (Vocational) [NC(V)] and the N part-qualifications;
7. Skills Education and Training Authorities Management Information System (SETMIS), which contains data provided to the department by SETAs;
8. Data provided to the department by the National Artisan Development Support Centre (NADSC);
9. Data provided to the department by the NSF;
10. Data extracted from the DHET levy system; and
11. Data obtained from NSFAS Annual Reports and NSFAS database.

Figure 2.15 below provides information on the number of international students by type of institution between 2014 and 2021. The total enrolment number of international students across all the post-school education institutions between 2014 and 2021 was 672 615. Public HEIs attracted the greatest number of international students, with a total of 482 114 students from 2014 to 2021, followed by private HEIs with 124 368 students. Private and CET colleges contributed the total of 37 930 respectively.

Overall, immigrant student enrolment in public HEIs decreased by 35,2% or 25 693 over the period 2014–2021, while the private HEIs enrolment increased by 11,5% or 1 483 and private colleges enrolment increased by 20,4% or 305. Private colleges enrolment also increased by 20,4% or 305. The CET enrolment decreased by 11,1% or 467 over the period 2015–2016.

Figure 2.15: Number of immigrant students by type of institution, 2014–2021



Source: Department of Higher Education and Training

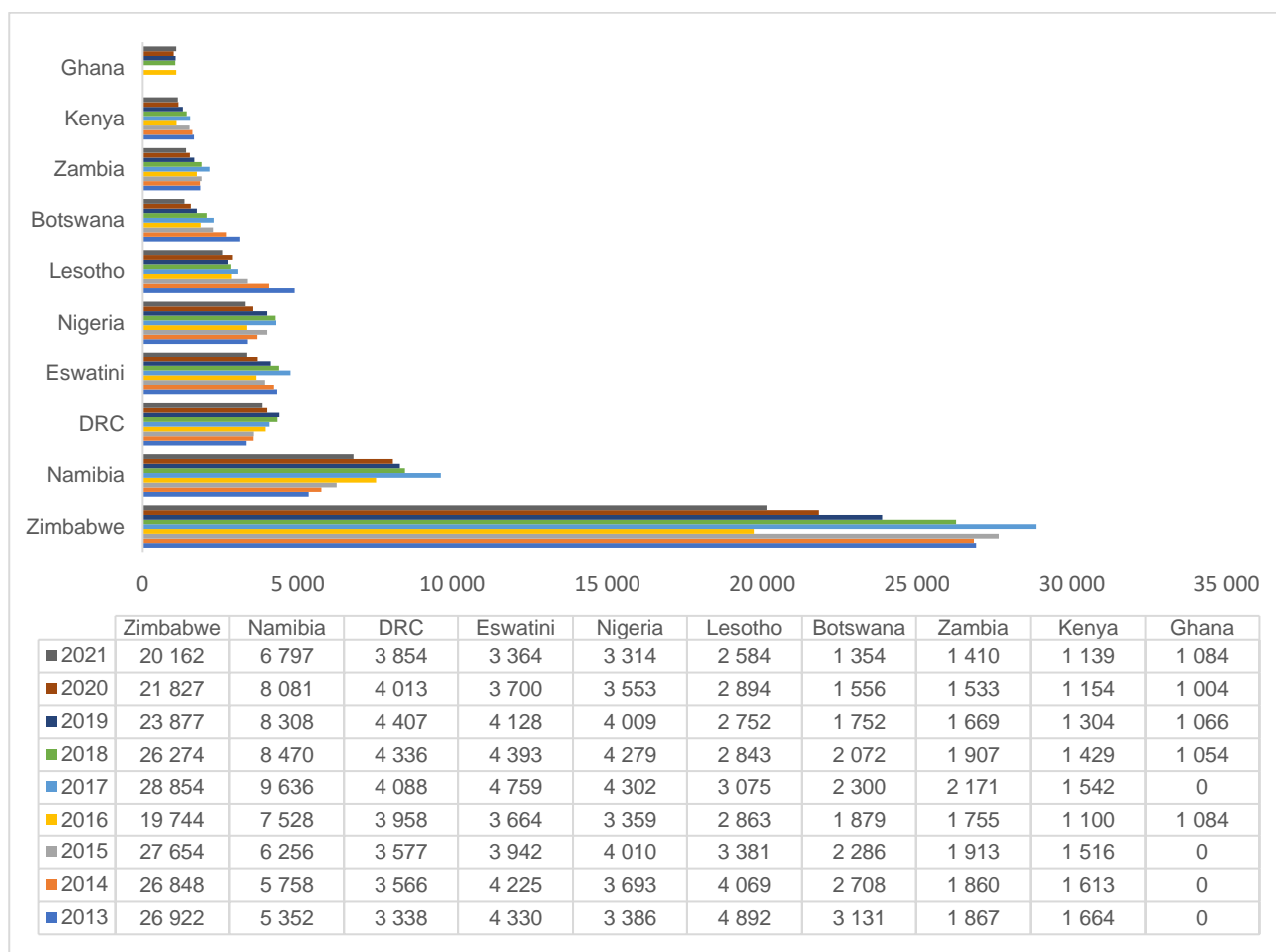
Note: Data for Community Education and Training Colleges are not available for 2014 and 2018.

Figure 2.16 below provides information about the top 10 sending countries to South Africa for educational purposes over a nine-year period, from 2013 to 2021. The data reveal trends and changes in the number of students arriving from various countries for educational opportunities in South Africa. Almost a third of immigrant students were from Zimbabwe (30,4% or 222 162) over the period 2013 to 2021, followed by Namibia (9,0% or 66 186), Eswatini (5,0% or 36 505), and DRC (4,8% or 35 137).

Lesotho, and Nigeria also sent significant numbers of students for educational purposes. These countries have shown fluctuations in their numbers over the years, with some years seeing an increase and others a decline in student arrivals. Zambia, Botswana, Kenya, and Ghana are other countries on the list, with varying levels of participation in South Africa's education system. Notably, Ghana had the lowest number of students in the top 10. The category "other foreign nationalities" represents students from various countries outside the top 10. This category also displayed fluctuations in numbers, with a peak of 40 573 students in 2015.

In summary, this figure illustrates the dynamic nature of South Africa's immigrant student population. While some countries consistently contribute a significant number of students, others show fluctuations or changes in their participation over time.

Figure 2.16: Top 10 sending countries of immigrant students to South Africa for educational purposes, 2013–2021



Source: Department of Higher Education and Training

Note: DRC refers to Democratic Republic of the Congo

A.2.3.3 Qualifications amongst immigrants

This section presents immigration information for student achievement within the Higher Education Qualification Sub-framework (HEQSF) and the Occupational Qualification Sub-framework (OQSF) recorded on the National Learners' Records Database (NLRD) from 2010 to 2023. The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is mandated to maintain the National Learners' Records Database (NLRD), as the management information system of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The NLRD is a comprehensive database that comprises a register of qualifications and part-qualifications registered on the NQF, and institutions accredited to offer them. The database also contains information on students' achievements, recognised professional bodies and their registered professional designations, accredited providers, and registered assessors. The information loaded onto the NLRD is supplied by the Quality Councils (QCs), the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and professional bodies.

The NQF as a single integrated system comprises three qualifications sub-frameworks: the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework (HEQSF); the Occupational Qualifications Sub-framework (OQSF); and the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework (GFETQSF). Each of the three sub-frameworks is managed by a Quality Council (QC) with the following general responsibilities:

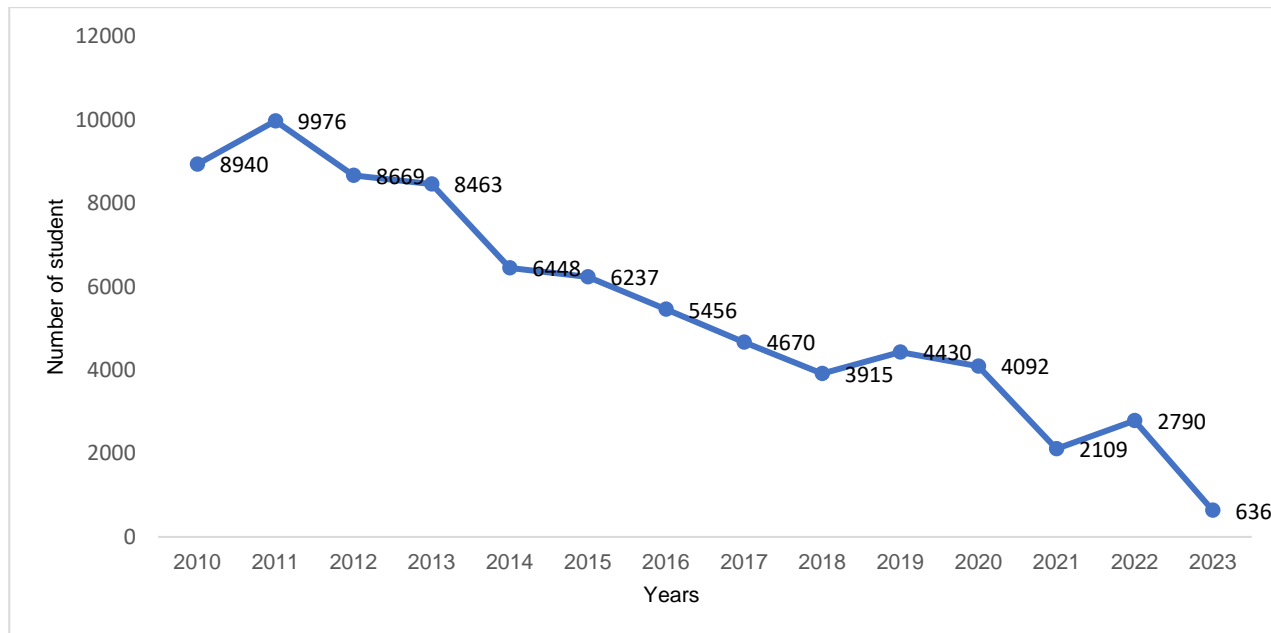
- Development of qualifications and part-qualifications.
- Quality assurance of those qualifications.
- Development and implementation of the following policies for their specific sectors:
 - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
 - Credit Accumulation and Transfer
 - Assessment
 - Recommendation of qualifications to SAQA for registration on the NQF

The Quality Councils (QCs) that manage the three Sub-frameworks are:

- UMALUSI – manages the GFETQSF (NQF Level 1–4)
- Council of Higher Education (CHE) – manages the HEQSF (NQF Level 5–10)
- Quality Council for Trades and Occupation (QCTO) – manages OQSF (NQF Level 1–8)

Figure 2.17 below shows immigrant student achievement trends by year, for the period 2010 to 2023. The number of learners who have achieved has been decreasing since 2010. The highest recorded number of student achievement was 9 976 in 2011, whilst the lowest was 636 in 2023.

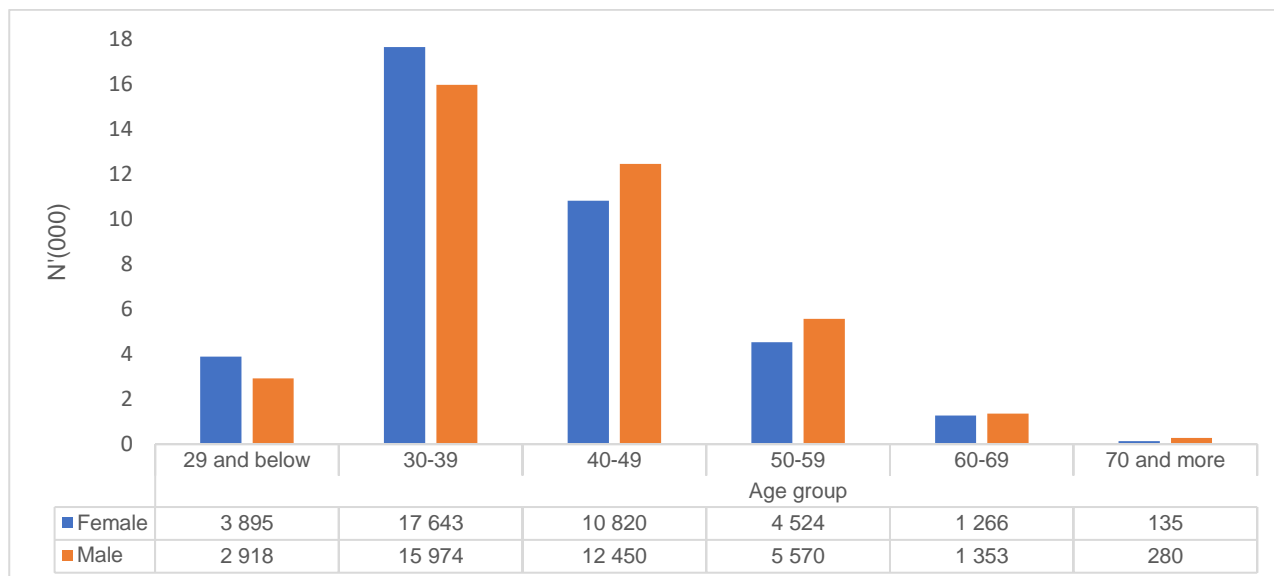
Figure 2.17: Number of immigrant student achievement, 2010–2023



Source: South African Qualifications Authority

Figure 2.18 below outlines the distribution of student achievement based on sex and age group from 2010 to 2023. The data indicate that a total of 76 831 achievements were recorded during this period. Across various age groups, the largest number of achievements occurred within the 30–39 age group with 33 617 achievements, followed by the 40–49 age group with 23 273 achievements. Comparatively lower numbers of achievements were recorded in older age brackets, with 10 094 achievements in the 50–59 age group, 2 619 achievements in the 60–69 age group, and 415 achievements among individuals aged 70 and older. A small proportion of achievements, totalling only 9, were attained by individuals below the age of 20. In terms of sex distribution, both males and females exhibited similar levels of achievement, with 38 545 achievements attributed to males and 38 283 achievements attributed to females. Additionally, a minor number of achievements, totalling 3, were categorised under an unknown sex. The data provide insights into the educational accomplishments of individuals across different age groups and sex, highlighting trends in students' achievements over the specified time frame.

Figure 2.18: Number of immigrant student achievement by sex and age group, 2010–2023



Source: South African Qualifications Authority

Table 2.3 below presents data on the number of achievements categorised by National Qualifications Framework (NQF) field from 2010 to 2023. Over this period, a total of 76 831 achievements were recorded across the various fields. Among these, the field with the highest number of achievements is Business, Commerce, and Management Studies, totalling 26 947 achievements. Following closely behind are Education, Training, and Development with 10 659 achievements, and Human and Social Studies with 9 028 achievements. Health Sciences and Social Services accounted for 5 644 achievements, while Physical, Mathematical, Computer, and Life Sciences recorded 5 129 achievements. Other fields such as Law, Military Science, and Security (3 570 achievements), Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology (3 315 achievements), and Trade (3 264 achievements) also demonstrate significant levels of achievement. Conversely, fields such as Agriculture and Nature Conservation (861 achievements) and Services (1 024 achievements) had fewer achievements in comparison. Additionally, there were 1 526 achievements categorised as Undefined. The data provide valuable insights into the distribution of achievements across different fields within the NQF, highlighting areas of prominence and activity over the specified time period.

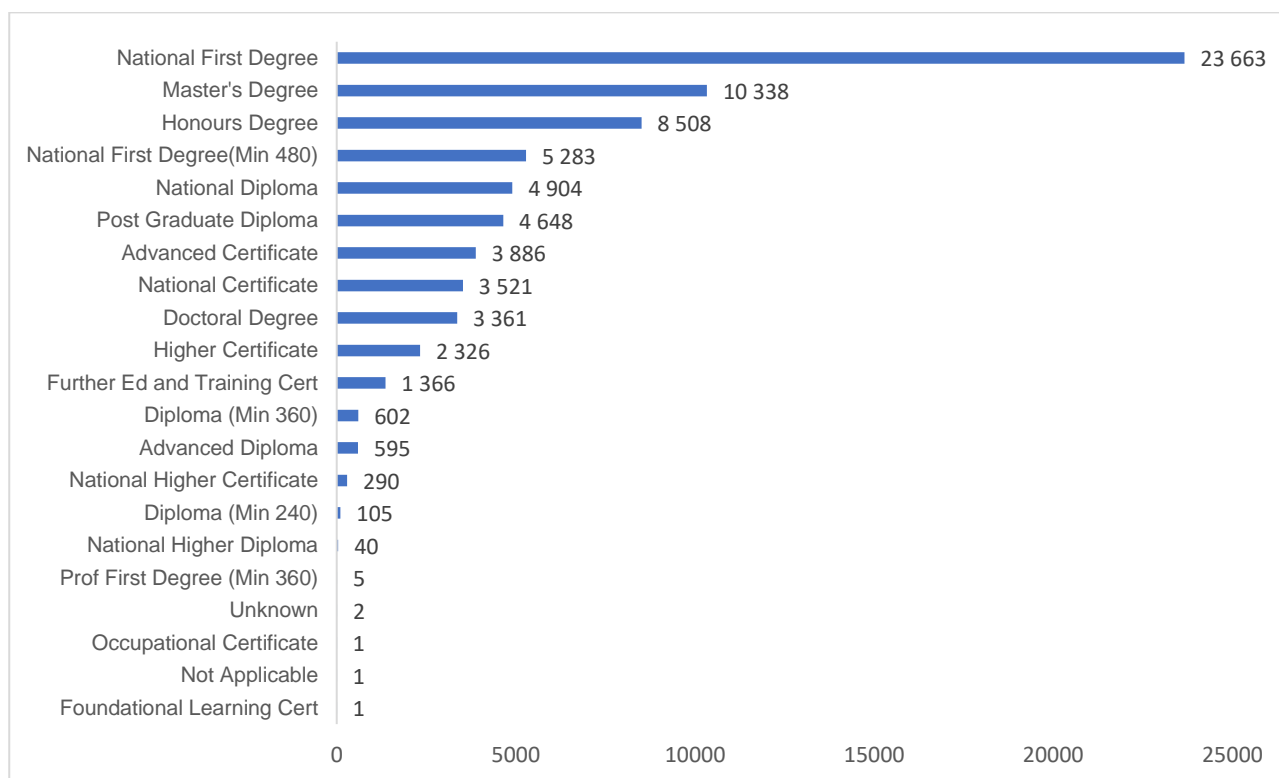
Table 2.3: Number of achievements by NQF field, 2010–2023

NQF field	Achievements
Business, Commerce and Management Studies	26 947
Education, Training and Development	10 659
Human and Social Studies	9 028
Health Sciences and Social Services	5 644
Physical, Mathematical, Computer and Life Sciences	5 129
Law, Military Science and Security	3 570
Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology	3 315
Trade	3 264
Physical Planning and Construction	2 221
Culture and Arts	1 932
Communication Studies and Language	1 711
Undefined	1 526
Services	1 024
Agriculture and Nature Conservation	861
Total	76 831

Source: South African Qualifications Authority

Figure 2.19 shows the learner achievements by the type of qualification for the period 2010 to 2023. The largest number of immigrants completed a national first degree (23 663), followed by a master’s degree (10 338) and an honours degree (8 508). Notably, 3 361 completed a doctoral degree, whilst 2 326 completed a higher certificate and 1 366 completed a Further Education and Training certificate.

Figure 2.19: Number of immigrant student achievement by qualification type, 2010–2023



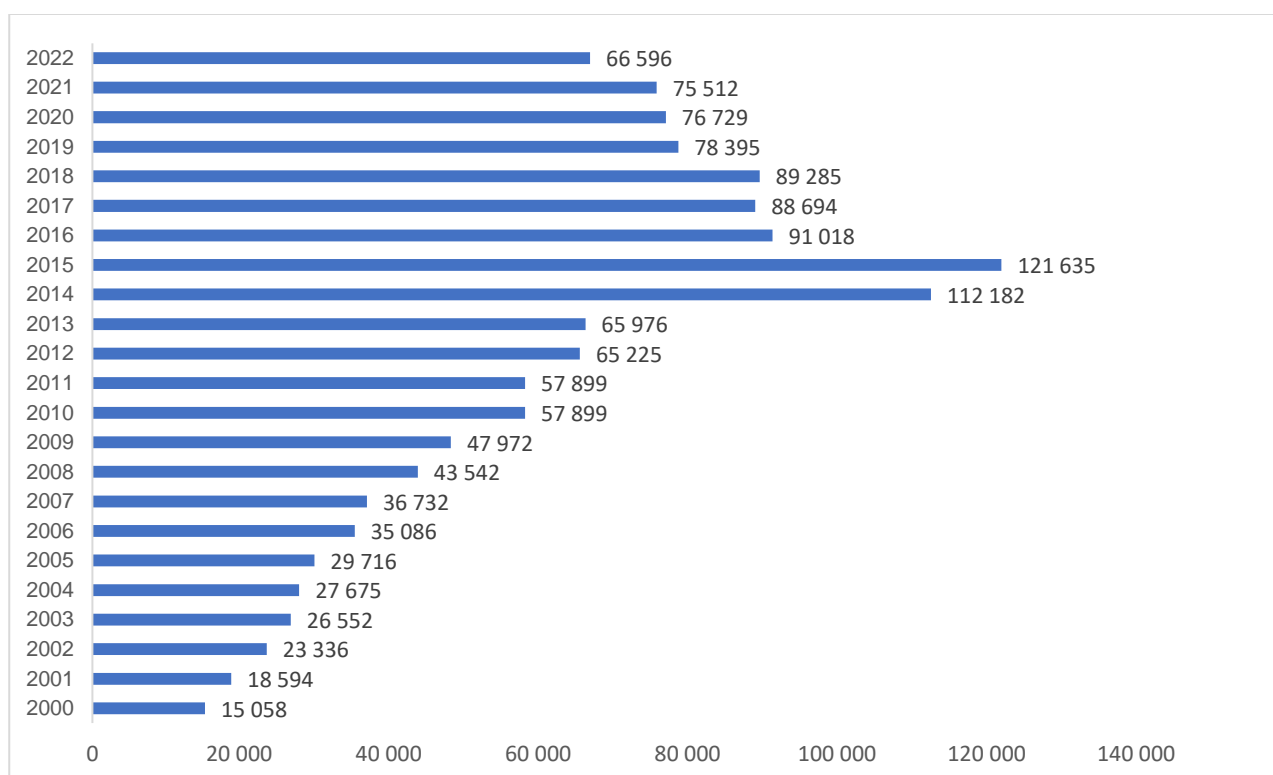
Source: South African Qualifications Authority

A.2.4 Involuntary immigration

This module aims to present stocks of forced migrants who arrive in the country or are already residing in the country. Involuntary – or “forced” – migration may take place for several reasons, including political conflicts and persecutions, but also due to rapid or gradual environmental reasons.

Figure 2.20 shows that the estimated number of UNHCR-mandated refugees remained relatively stable from 2000 to 2009, but there was a noticeable increase from 2010 onwards, reaching 121 635 in 2015. Subsequently, there was a decrease in the number of UNHCR-mandated refugees. In 2022, the data show 66 596 refugees under the UNHCR's mandate in South Africa.

Figure 2.20: Estimated number of refugees under UNHCR’s⁷ mandate, 2000–2022

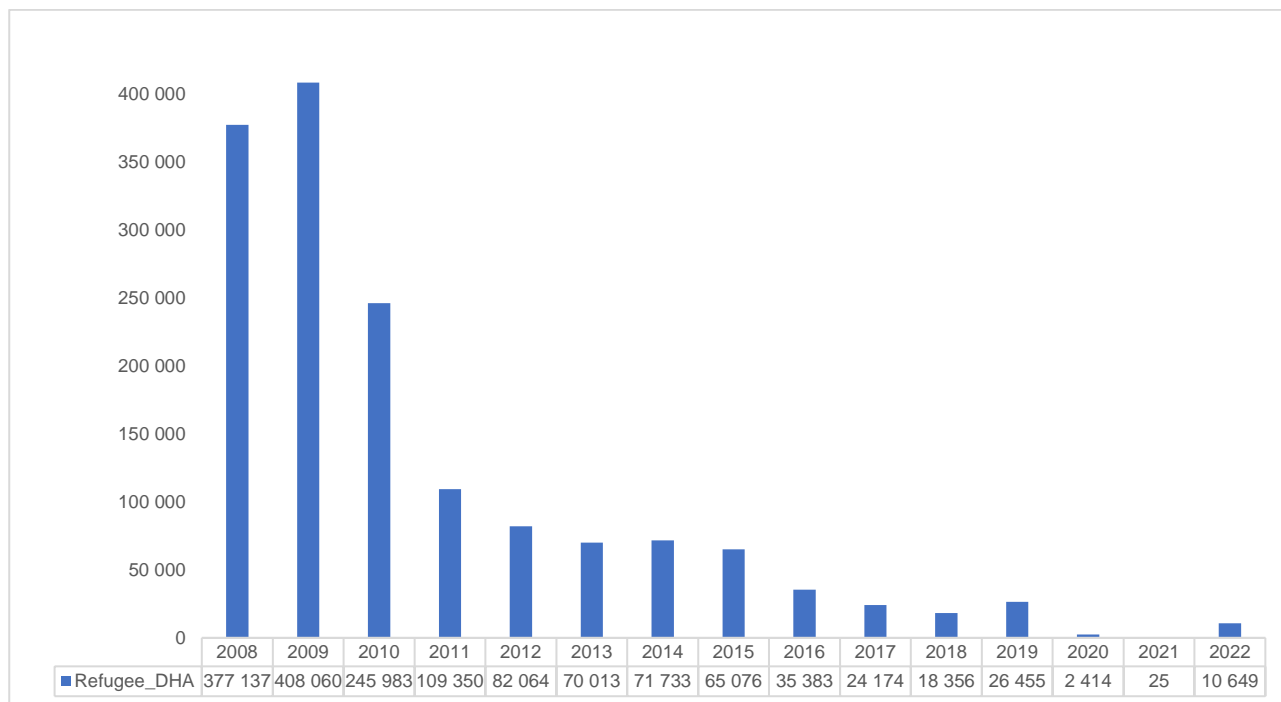


Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Extracted data: 06/10/2023

Figure 2.21 below shows the number of Refugees processed by Department of Home Affairs between 2008 and 2022. The results further show that DHA recorded a high number of Refugees in 2009 (408 060) which increased from 2008 (377 137). Following the increase there was a notable decrease in the number of refugees throughout. The least numbers recorded were in 2020 and 2021 with 2 414 and 25, respectively.

⁷ The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as a person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country." (UNHCR)

Figure 2.21: Number of refugees under DHA’s mandate, 2008–2022

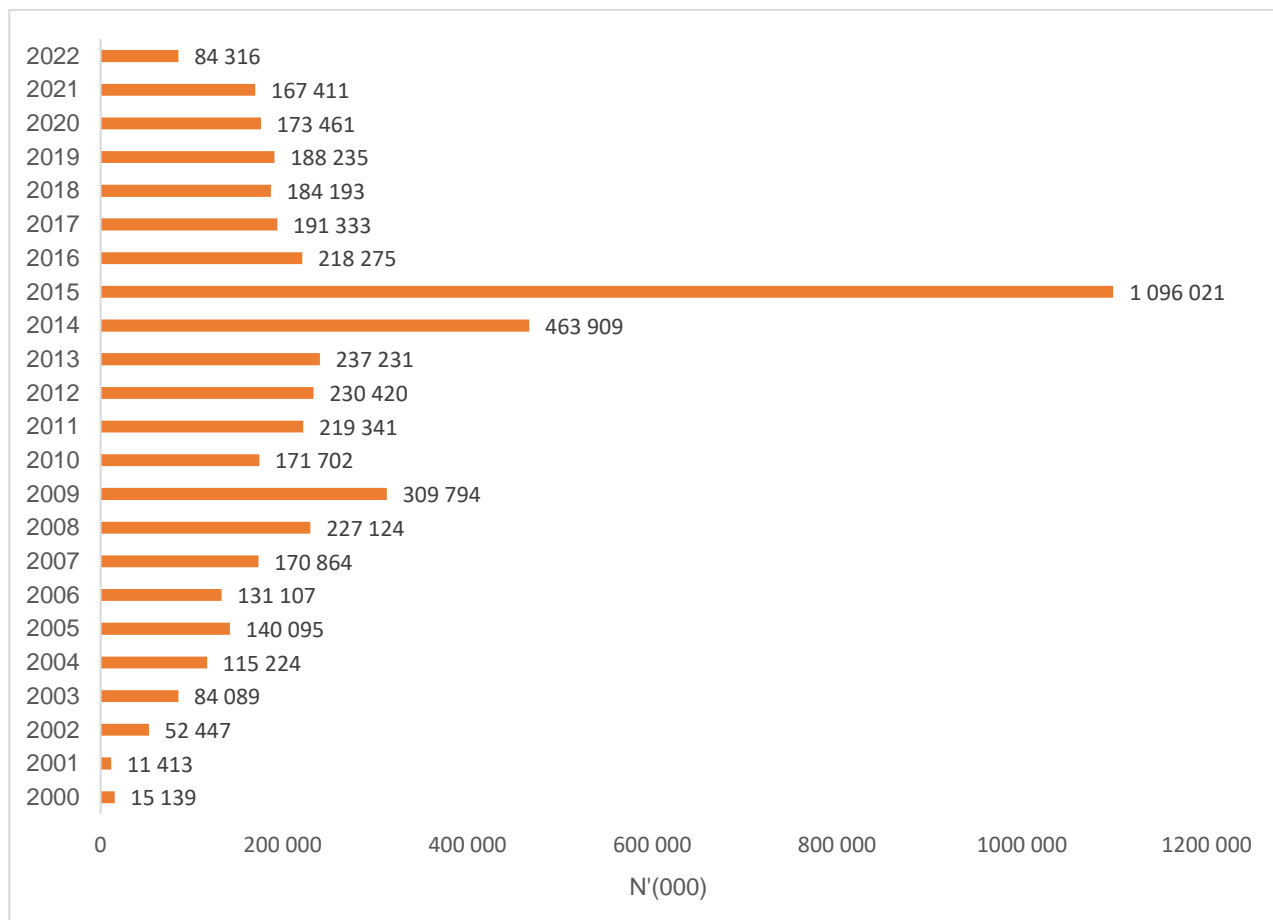


Source: Department of Home Affairs (2008 - 2022)

Figure 2.22 provides data on the estimated number of asylum seekers and refugees under the UNHCR's mandate in South Africa from 2000 to 2022. These figures illustrate the annual changes in the number of people seeking asylum and refugees officially recognised by the UNHCR in the country. In 2000, there were 15 139 asylum seekers and 15 058 refugees under the UNHCR's mandate in South Africa (Table 2.26). The number of asylum seekers was roughly equal to the number of UNHCR-mandated refugees.

Over the years, both categories showed significant fluctuations. The number of asylum seekers in 2009 was 309 794 individuals. This was followed by a decrease in the subsequent years. In 2014, the number of asylum seekers significantly increased to 463 909, but this number decreased in the following years. In 2022, the data show 84 316 asylum seekers.

Figure 2.22: Estimated number of asylum seekers under UNHCR mandate, 2000–2022



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Extracted data: 06/10/2023

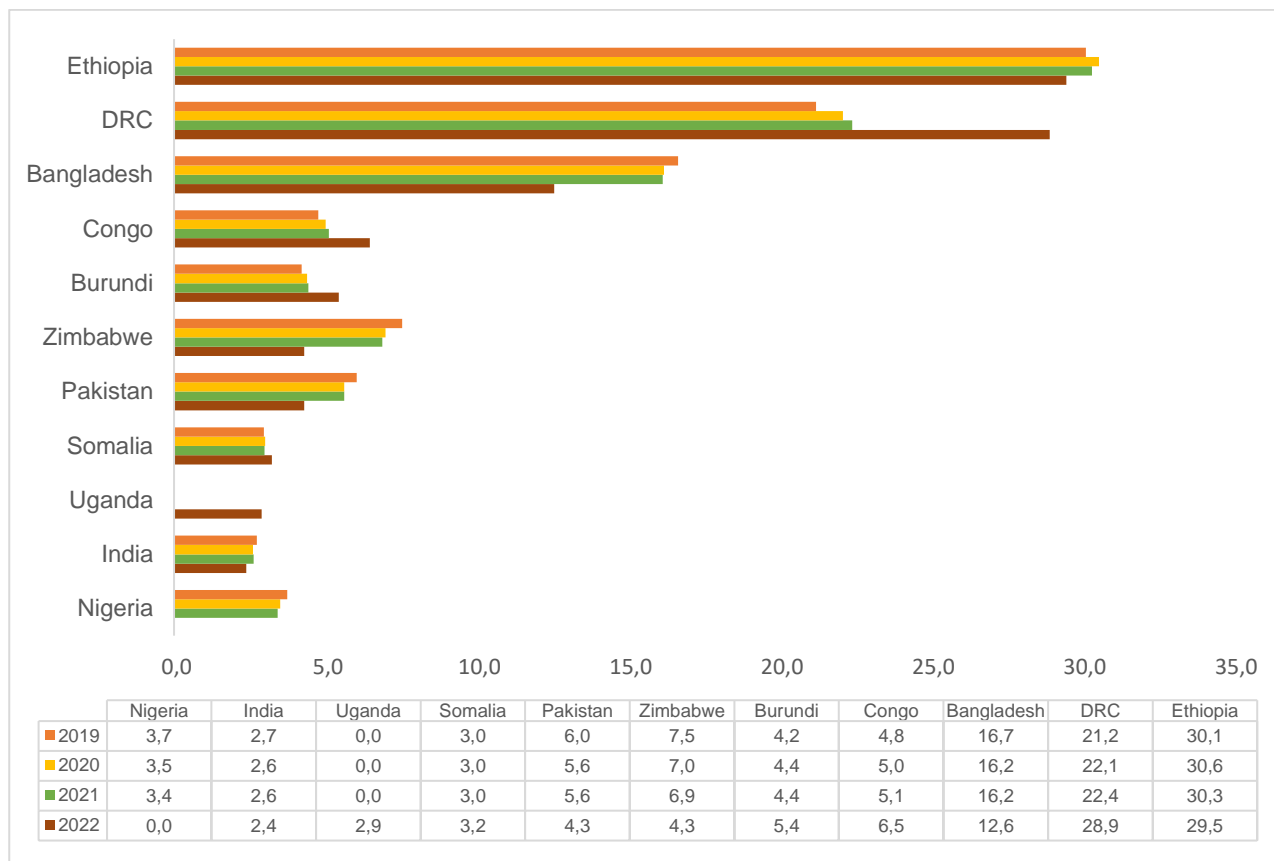
Figure 2.23 provides data on the distribution of asylum seekers in South Africa by their country of origin for the years 2019 to 2022. The figure highlights both the number and percentage of asylum seekers from different countries during this period.

In 2019, the leading countries of origin for asylum seekers in South Africa were Ethiopia and the DRC, with 30,1% and 21,2% of total asylum seekers, respectively. Other significant source countries included Bangladesh (16,7%) and Zimbabwe (7,5%).

The distribution of asylum seekers in 2020 saw a similar pattern, with Ethiopia (30,6%) and the DRC (22,1%) remaining the top source countries. In 2021, the number of asylum seekers from the DRC (22,4%) and Ethiopia (30,3%) remained significant, while Bangladesh (16,2%) and Zimbabwe (6,9%) also contributed.

By 2022, the distribution of asylum seekers showed some changes. Ethiopia remained the top source country (29,5%), followed by the DRC (28,9%) and Bangladesh (12,6%). Notably, there were no recorded asylum seekers from Nigeria in 2022.

Figure 2.23: Distribution of asylum seekers by country of origin, 2019–2022



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Extracted date: 06/10/2023

Note** DRC refers to Democratic Republic of Congo

Table 2.4 presents data on the distribution of refugees in South Africa by their country of origin for the years 2019 to 2022. The table provides both the number and percentage of refugees from different countries during this period. In 2019, the largest group of refugees came from Somalia, making up 30,5% of the total refugee population, followed closely by the DRC at 29,9%. Another significant source country was Ethiopia (20,6%). The distribution of refugees in 2020 saw a similar pattern, with Somalia (30,4%) and the DRC (30,1%) remaining the top source countries.

In 2021, the number of refugees from Somalia (30,2%) and the DRC (30,4%) remained significant, along with Ethiopia (20,5%) and Eritrea (1,9%). By 2022, the distribution of refugees remained consistent with the previous years, with Somalia (31,6%), the DRC (30,0%), Ethiopia (19,7%), and Eritrea (2,0%) making up the majority of the refugee population. These figures highlight the relatively stable composition of the refugee population in South Africa during this period, with refugees primarily originating from countries affected by conflict and insecurity.

Table 2.4: Distribution of refugees by country of origin, 2019–2022

Country of origin	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cameroon	328	0,4	326	0,4	323	0,4	282	0,4
Uganda	472	0,6	459	0,6	460	0,6	381	0,6
Rwanda	1 067	1,4	1 016	1,3	1 014	1,4	923	1,4
Eritrea	1 574	2,0	1 469	1,9	1 395	1,9	1 314	2,0
Burundi	2 699	3,5	2 636	3,5	2 611	3,5	2 360	3,6
Zimbabwe	4 003	5,2	3 954	5,2	3 965	5,3	3 343	5,1
Congo	4 552	5,9	4 463	5,9	4 385	5,9	3 654	5,5
Ethiopia	15 990	20,6	15 629	20,6	15 284	20,5	13 002	19,7
Somalia	23 635	30,5	23 054	30,4	22 529	30,2	20 850	31,6
DRC	23 160	29,9	22 816	30,1	22 658	30,4	19 777	30,0
Total	77 480	100,0	75 822	100,0	74 624	100,0	65 886	100,0

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Extracted date: 06/10/2023

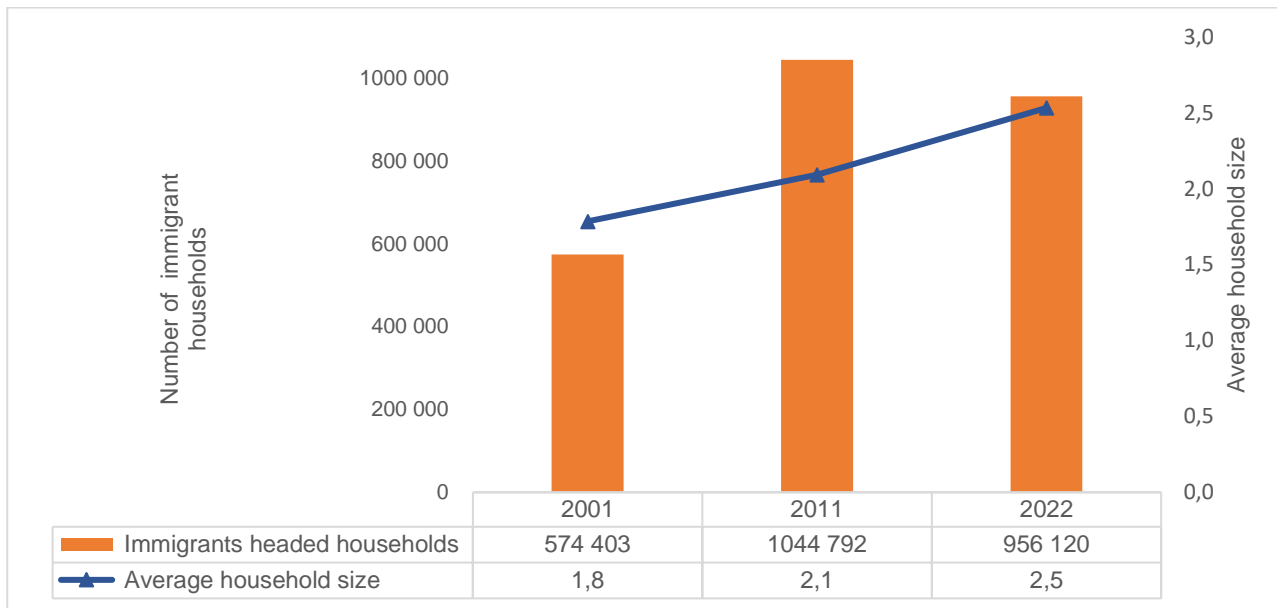
Note** DRC refers to Democratic Republic of Congo

A.2.5 Households headed by immigrants and access to basic services

The population and household census defines a household as *a group of persons who live together and provide themselves jointly with food or other essentials for living, or a single person who lives alone*. To understand conditions and to monitor progress in immigrant households, the population and household census is used. Immigrant households are identified by using the country of birth of the household head. The census captures questions on country of birth and household status and further captures questions relating to the household's access to basic services; this includes access to clean water, sanitation, electricity, and refuse removal.

Figure 2.24 below presents the average household size and number of households headed by immigrants between 2001, 2011 and 2022. The data indicate that immigrant-headed households have increased over time. In 2001 there were 574 403 immigrant-headed households and in 2022 immigrant-headed households were 956 120. However, when comparing 2011 and 2022 there has been a decrease in the number of immigrant households in the two periods, from 1 044 792 to 956 120. Notably, the average household size of immigrants increased over time in the last 20 years.

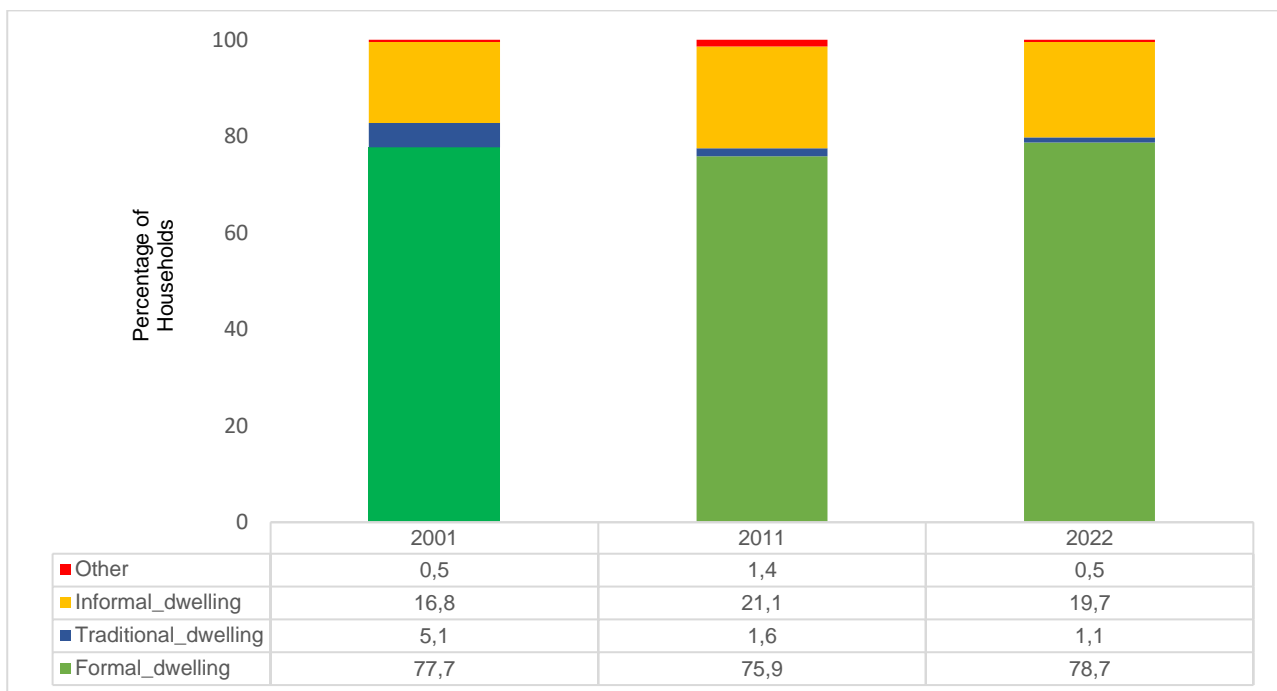
Figure 2.24: Average household size and number of immigrant households headed by immigrants, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022

Figure 2.25 below shows the percentage distribution of households headed by immigrants by dwelling type in 2001, 2011 and 2022. In all three years, the vast majority resided in formal dwellings, followed by informal dwellings and then traditional dwellings. Whilst the percentage of households headed by immigrants living in formal dwellings increased by 1% from 2001 to 2022, those living in informal dwellings increased by almost 3% in the same period.

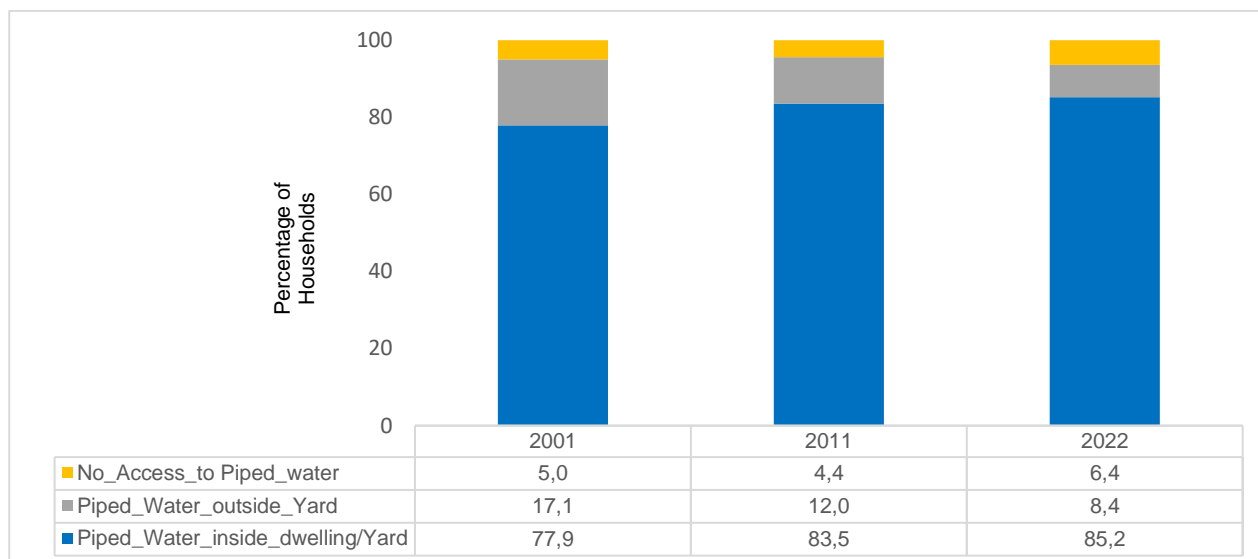
Figure 2.25: Percentage distribution of households headed by immigrants by dwelling type, 2001, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and –2022

Figure 2.26 below shows that most households headed by immigrants had piped water inside the dwelling, and that this increased from 77,9% in 2001 to 85,2% in 2022. However, those with no access to piped water increased slightly from 5% in 2001 to 6,4% in 2022, after it had decreased to 4,4% in 2011.

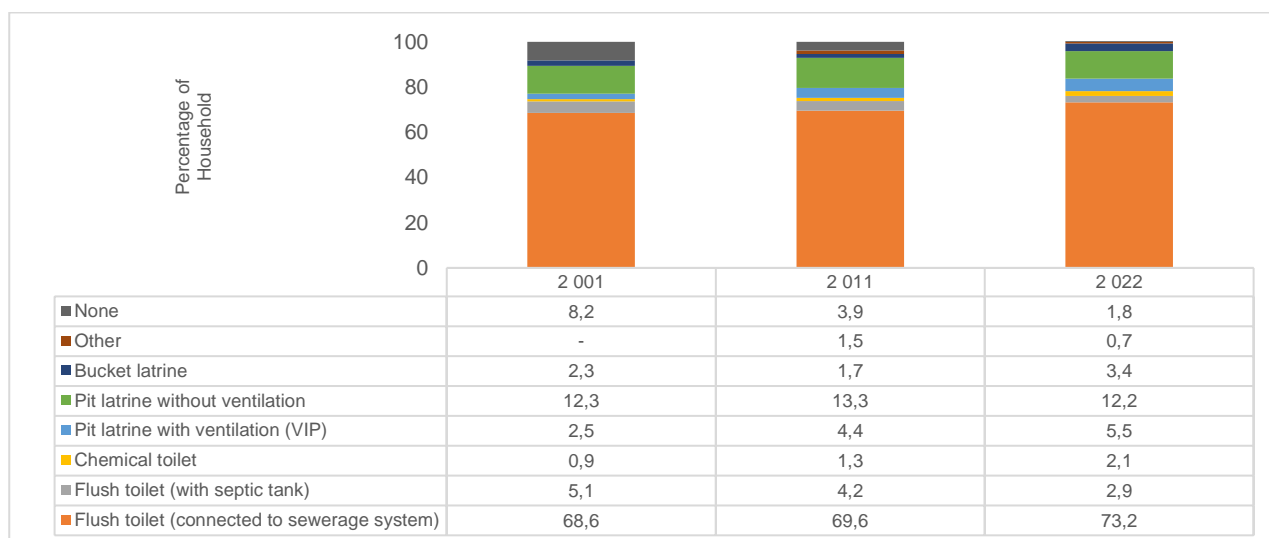
Figure 2.26: Percentage distribution of households headed by immigrants by access to piped water, 2001, 2011 and –2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and –2022

Figure 2.27 below shows that over two-thirds of households headed by immigrants had flush toilets connected to a sewerage system in 2001, 2011 and 2022 –this increased from 68,6% in 2001 to 73,2% in 2022. The second-highest percentage was amongst those with a pit latrine without ventilation, which remained at just over 12% throughout the period (2011 to 2022); those with a pit latrine with ventilation increased by 3% over the same period. Notably, those with no toilet facilities decreased from 8,2% in 2001, to 3,9% in 2011 and 1,8% in 2022.

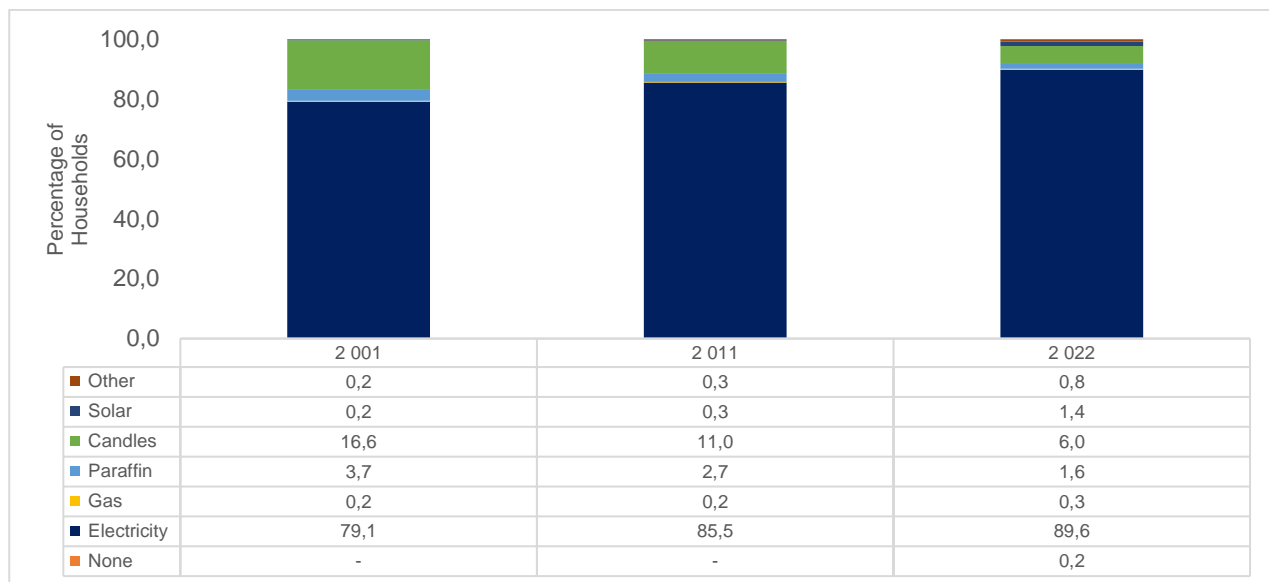
Figure 2.27: Number of households headed by immigrants by type of toilet facility, 2001, 2011 and –2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and –2022

Figure 2.28 below shows the percentage of households headed by immigrants by type of energy used for lighting. The vast majority used electricity in all three years, and this increased from 79,1% in 2001 to 89,6% in 2022. Subsequently, those that used candles and paraffin decreased in the same period, whilst those that use gas remained the same.

Figure 2.28: Percentage of immigrant-headed households by type of energy used for lighting, 2001, 2011 and –2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and –2022

Figure 2.29 shows the percentage of households headed by immigrants by type of energy used for cooking. Over two-thirds used electricity in all three years, and this increased from 69,5% in 2001 to 76,7% in 2022. Subsequently, those that used wood, coal and paraffin decreased in the same period, whilst those that used gas increased from 2,7% in 2001 to 12,3% in 2022.

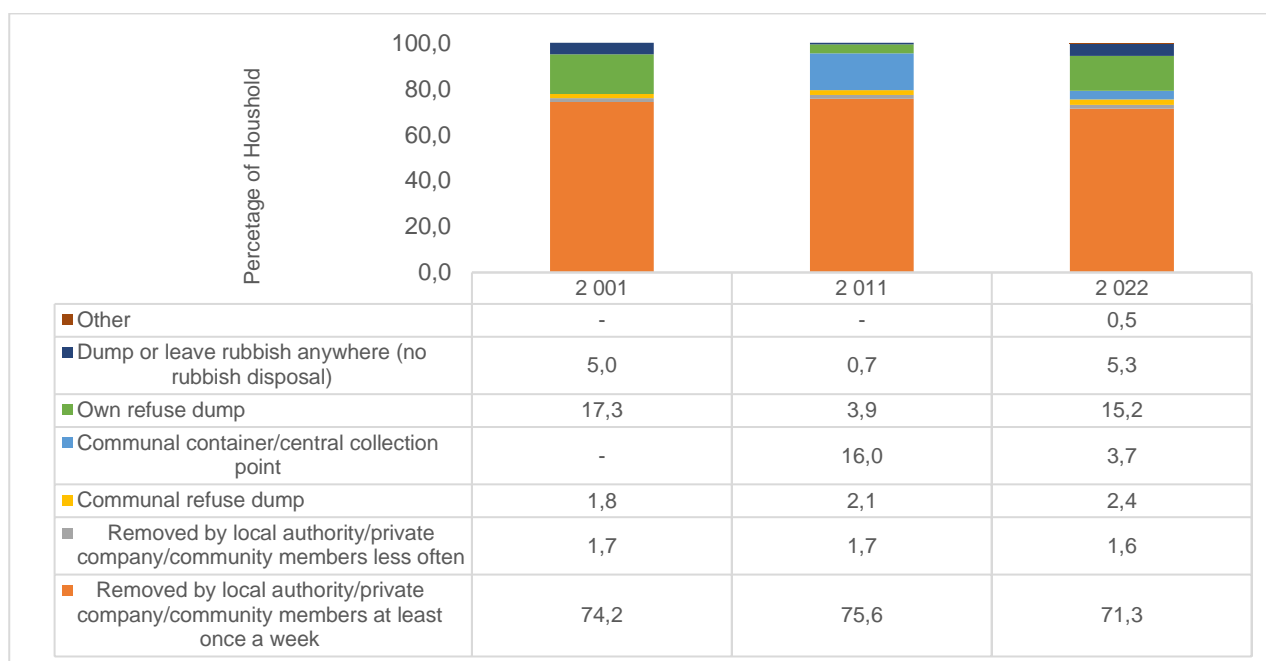
Figure 2.29: Percentage distribution of immigrant-headed households by type of energy used for cooking, 2001, 2011 and –2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and –2022

Figure 2.30 shows that most households headed by immigrants had their refuse removed by a local authority/private company/community member at least once a week, although this decreased from 74,2% in 2001 to 71,3% in 2022. Just under 2% in all three years stated that their refuse was removed less often than once per week. In 2001, 1,8% stated they used a communal refuse dump. This increased to 2,1% in 2011 and 2,4% in 2022.

Figure 2.30: Percentage distribution of immigrant-headed households by mode of refuse removal, 2001, 2011 and –2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001, 2011 and 2022

A.2.6 Access to social assistance by immigrants

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) provides that everyone has the right to have access to social security, including – if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants – appropriate social assistance, and obliges the state to take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights.

In terms of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act No. 13 of 2004)⁸ social assistance is an income transfer in the form of grants provided by government⁹ to an eligible South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee permanently residing in South Africa.¹⁰ Social grants refer to grants paid by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA): disability grant; grant for older persons and war veteran's grant; foster child grant; care dependency grant; child support grant, child support grant Top-Up; and Grant-in-Aid, social relief of distress as well as the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant.¹¹ These grants are designed to provide support to children in income-compromised households (up to 18 years of age) and older persons without adequate incomes (older than 60 years of age).

In South Africa, the social assistance grants are categorical and means-tested (with the exception of the foster child grant). Social assistance is subject to means testing which implies that the SASSA evaluates the income and assets of the person applying as well as his/her spouse in order to determine whether the person's means are below a stipulated amount. This means test is a way of determining whether a person qualifies to receive a grant as grants are indeed meant for those who have insufficient means to support themselves. The means test varies from one grant type to another.

Data on immigrants receiving social assistance are derived and generated from the SASSA's legacy information management system called SOCPEN, which started in the 1980s. SOCPEN is a primary database for beneficiary information management which provides data on grants and beneficiaries.

Figure 2.31 shows the number of social grants beneficiaries by migratory status between 2015 and 2023. Overall, there are more South African citizens who are beneficiaries of social grants compared to immigrants (refugees and permanent residents). In all the years, amongst immigrant beneficiaries there were more permanent residents' beneficiaries than refugees – increasing annually from 29 813 in 2015 to 43 564 in 2023. Refugee beneficiaries of social grants increased from 6 087 in 2015 to over 9 000 in 2019 to 2021, and subsequently increased to 15 931 in 2022.

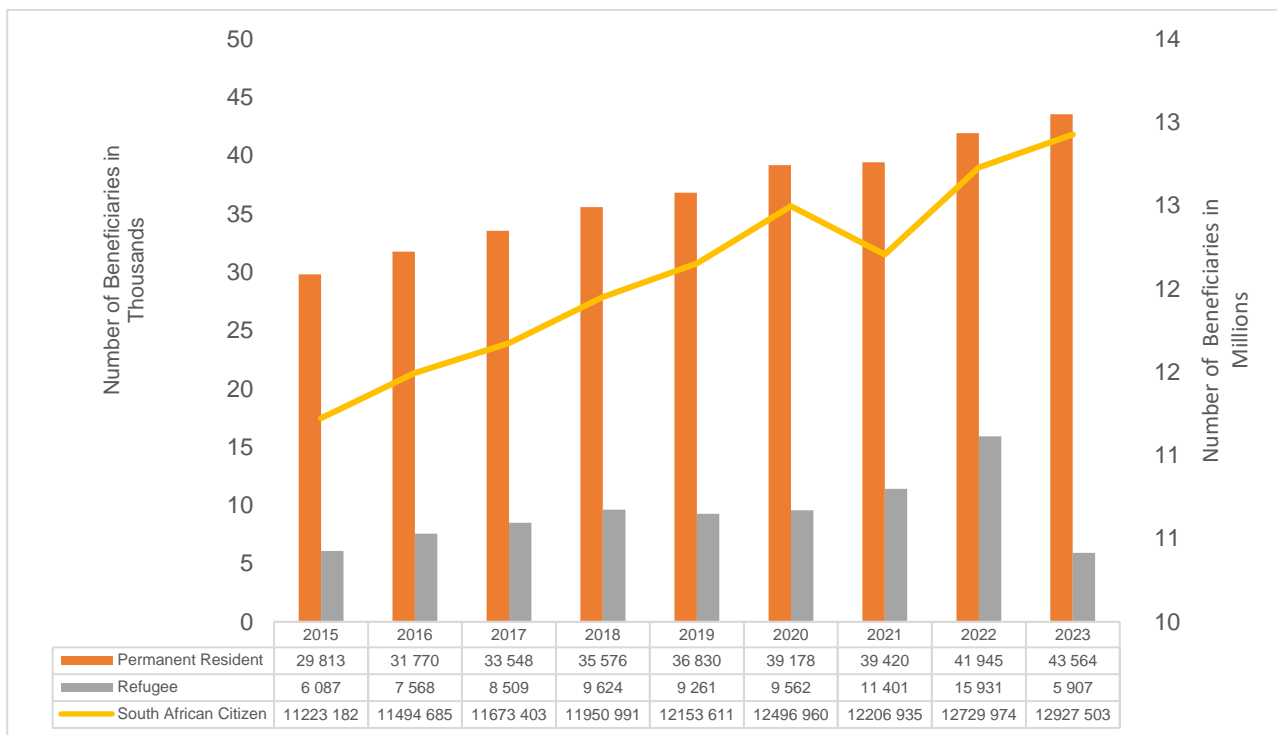
⁸ Social Assistance Act [No. 13 of 2004] (www.gov.za).

⁹ Minister Lindiwe Zulu: Social Development Dept Budget Vote 2023/24 | South African Government (www.gov.za).

¹⁰ To add the 2 court rulings that paved the way for the permanent residents and refugees to access the social security benefits.

¹¹ <https://www.sassa.gov.za/publications/Documents/ENGLISH%20YOU%20AND%20YOUR%20GRANTS%202023-24.pdf>

Figure 2.31: Number of social grants beneficiaries by migratory status, 2015–2023

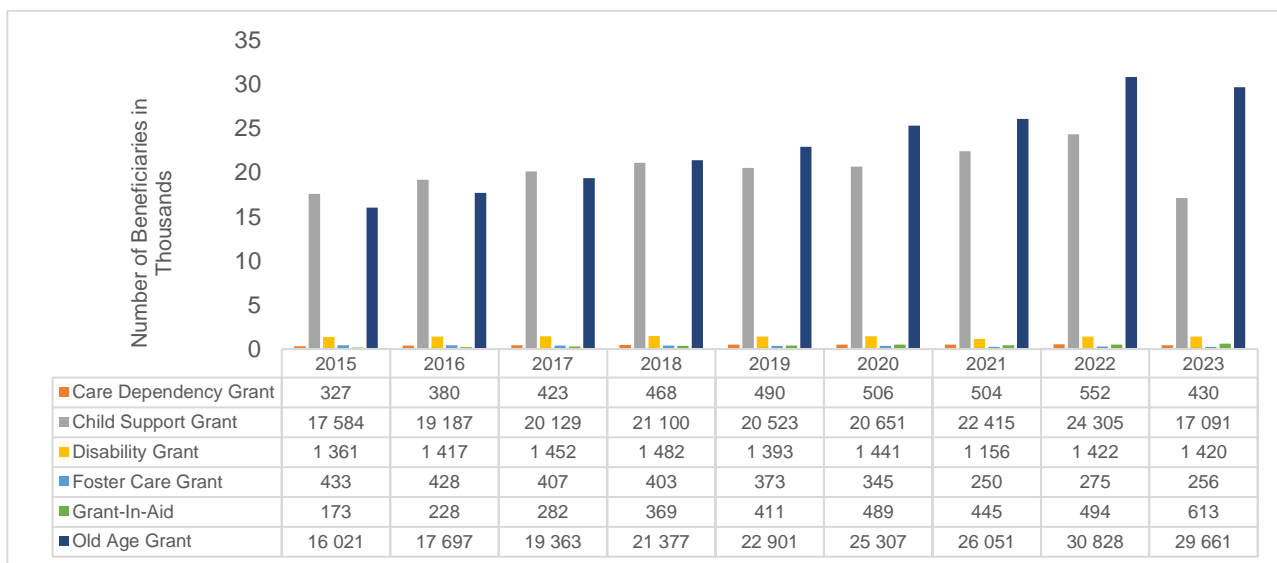


Source: SASSA, data end March 2023

Note: Excludes data on Social Relief Of Distress grant (SRD), also known as the R350 grant.

Figure 2.32 below shows that over time, most immigrant beneficiaries accessed the child support grants and older person’s grant; these increased throughout the period. Those that accessed the child support grants increased from 17 584 in 2015 to 24 305 in 2022. Similarly, those that accessed the older person’s grant increased from 16 021 in 2015 to 30 828 in 2022. Those that accessed the disability grant increased only slightly over the period from 1 361 in 2015 to 1 422 in 2022, having decreased slightly to 1 156 in 2021. On the other hand, those receiving the foster care grant decreased from 433 in 2015 to 275 in 2022, whilst those receiving the grant-in-aid increased from 173 to 494 in the same period.

Figure 2.32: Number of immigrant beneficiaries by social grant type, 2015–2023

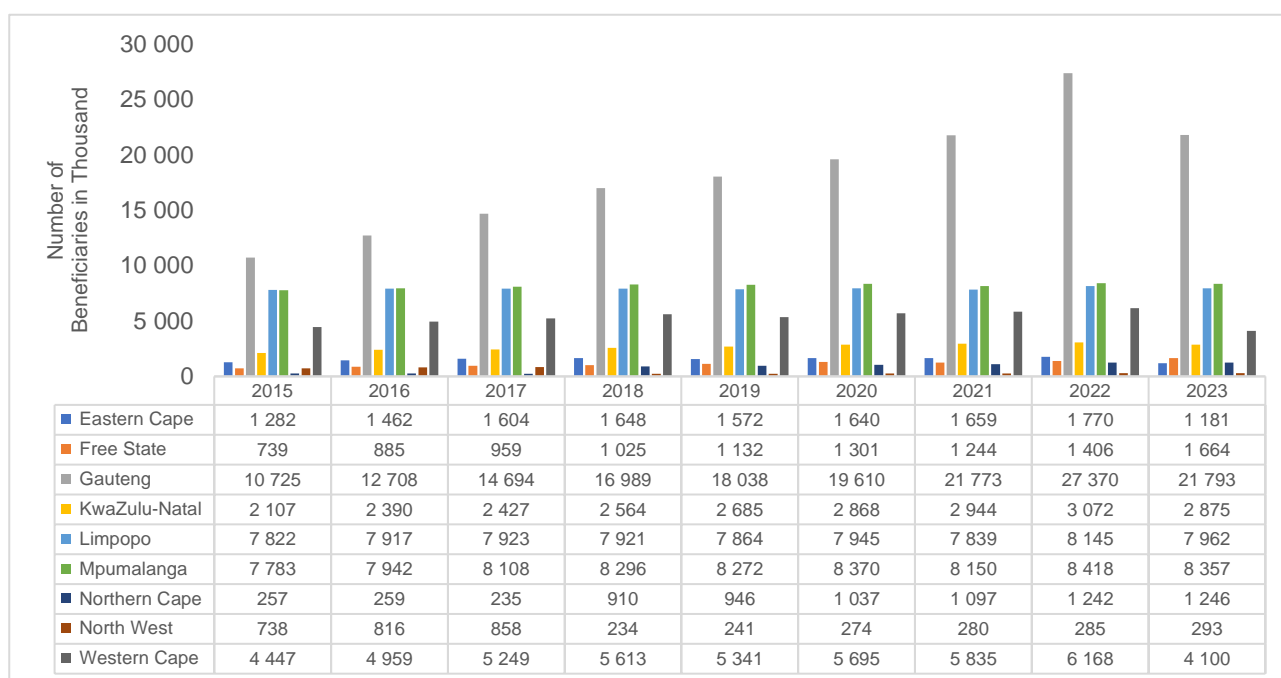


Source: SASSA, data end March 2023

Note: Excludes data on Social Relief Of Distress grant (SRD), also known as the R350 grant.

Figure 2.33 below shows the number of immigrant beneficiaries of social grants by province for 2015 to the end of March in 2023. Gauteng has remained the province with the highest number of beneficiaries, increasing over the period from 10 725 in 2015 to 27 370 in 2022. This is followed by Limpopo and Mpumalanga with similar numbers throughout the period. The number of beneficiaries in these two provinces has remained around 8 000 from 2015 to 2022. Unlike all the other provinces where the number of beneficiaries increased over the period, the number of beneficiaries in the North West province decreased from 738 in 2015 to 285 in 2022.

Figure 2.33: Number of immigrant beneficiaries by province, 2015–2023



Source: SASSA, data end March 2023

Note: Excludes data on Social Relief Of Distress grant (SRD), also known as the R370 grant.

A.2.6.1 The special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant

As a response to the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, a special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant (R370) was introduced in May 2020¹² as a temporary measure to provide income support to unemployed persons with insufficient means. To be eligible, a beneficiary must be a South African citizen; a permanent resident; or a refugee; or a holder of a special permit under the Special Angolan Dispensation, the Lesotho Exemption Permit Dispensation or the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit Dispensation hereafter referred to as Special Permit Holders, (SPH); or an asylum seeker, whose section 22 permit or visa is valid; and registered on the Department of Home Affairs database or registered on the agency’s social grant database with a unique system-generated identifying number for people without identity documents; and between the ages of 18 and 60; and currently residing within the borders of South Africa.

¹² There has been short-term extensions to this temporary grant. At the time of writing, the National Treasury announced its extension to March 2025.

Table 2.5 below provides an analysis of the number of COVID-19 Social Relief Distress grant applications by migratory status as of 14 November 2023. The majority of applications were launched by South African citizens, followed by permanent residents and refugees respectively.

Table 2.5: Number of COVID-19 Social Relief Distress grant applications by migratory status as of 14 November 2023

Province	Citizens	Permanent residents	Refugees	Total
Eastern Cape	1 960 841	881	706	1 962 428
Free State	845 896	883	51	846 830
Gauteng	3 006 042	10 661	1 818	3 018 521
KwaZulu-Natal	3 778 347	2 677	855	3 781 879
Limpopo	2 062 599	12 085	178	2 074 862
Mpumalanga	1 452 420	4 136	184	1 456 740
North West	1 058 295	1 244	72	1 059 611
Northern Cape	327 490	164	20	327 674
Western Cape	1 186 849	1 197	1 799	1 189 845
Total	15 678 779	33 928	5 683	15 718390

Source: SASSA

Note: Data on approved and paid applications are available from SASSA on request.

Table 2.6 presents the number of COVID-19 Social Relief Distress grants for asylum seekers and SPH Distinct Applicants as of 07 November 2023. The table suggests that the most applications were received from Lesotho Exemption Permit holders, followed by asylum seekers.

Table 2.6: Number of COVID-19 Social Relief Distress grants for asylum seekers and SPH Distinct Applicants as of 07 November 2023

Province	Asylum seeker	Angolan Special Permit holder	Lesotho Exemption Permit holder	Zimbabwean Exemption Permit holder	Total
Eastern Cape	549	44	149	53	795
Free State	312	5	816	16	1 149
Gauteng	1 273	13	5 080	247	6 613
KwaZulu-Natal	931	25	366	87	1 409
Limpopo	524	23	357	47	951
Mpumalanga	358	12	273	46	689
North West	285	17	1 127	32	1 461
Northern Cape	177	10	81	7	275
Western Cape	1 292	23	117	33	1 465
Total	5 701	172	8 366	568	14 807

Source: SASSA

Note: Data on approved and paid applications are available from SASSA on request.

A.3 EMIGRATION

This section presents key data on the emigrant stock for South Africa citizens residing abroad based on UNDESA data. Data on emigration, due to the very character of this migration type, are more difficult to collect than immigration data. In the majority of cases, estimation techniques and data from destination countries have to be used to produce estimates of stocks of nationals residing abroad. Therefore, particular attention should be paid to describing the methods used to attain the data presented and to indicating their potential limitations and errors.

A.3.1 South African citizens residing abroad

Figure 3.1 below shows the distribution of South African citizens residing abroad by sex for the years 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020. The table presents both the number (N) and the percentage (%) of South African citizens living overseas.

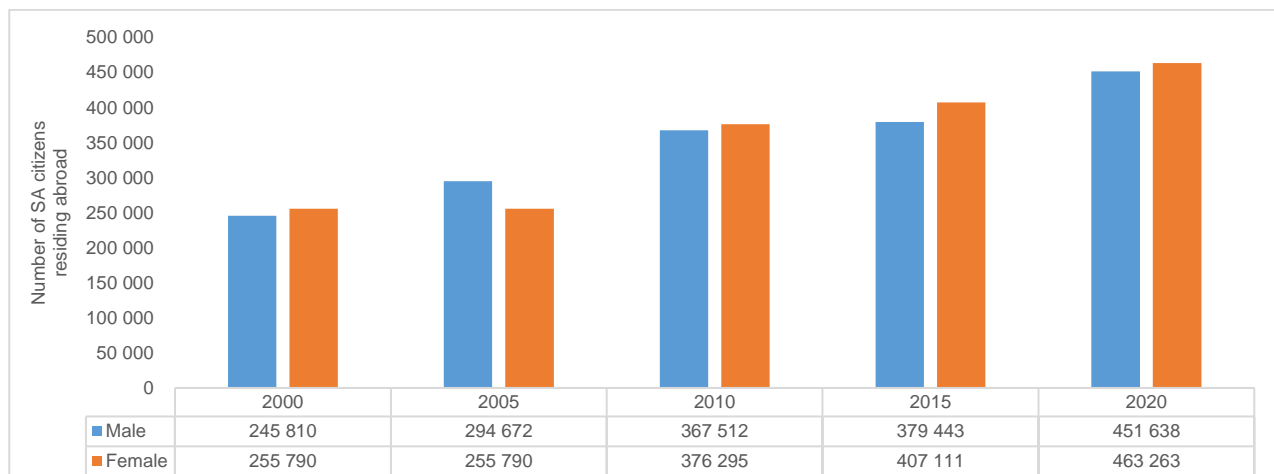
In 2000, there was a total of 501 600 South African citizens residing abroad, with 49,0% being male and 51,0% being female. This indicates a relatively balanced sex distribution among South Africans living abroad.

In 2005, the number of South African citizens living overseas increased to 550 462, with 53,5% being male and 46,5% being female. The percentage of males increased slightly, reflecting a higher growth rate in the male expatriate population during this period.

By 2010, the total number of South African citizens living abroad had further increased to 743 807, with 49,4% being male and 50,6% being female. The sex distribution was relatively balanced.

In 2015, the number of South African citizens residing abroad reached 786 554, with 48,2% being male and 51,8% being female. The percentage of females increased during this period. Finally, in 2020 the total number of South African citizens living overseas continued to rise, reaching 914 901. The sex distribution remained balanced, with 49,4% being male and 50,6% being female.

Figure 3.1: Distribution of South African citizens residing abroad by sex, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020



Source: UNDESA accessed 04/10/2023

Figure 3.2 below provides the percentage distribution of South African citizens residing abroad by their region of residence for the years 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020. The data illustrate the changing proportions of South African citizens living abroad across different regions.

In 2000, Europe was the dominant region of residence for South African citizens, constituting 38,6% of the total expatriate population. Northern America also hosted a significant share at 20,4%. Oceania was the second-largest region with 21,1%, and Africa had a substantial presence with 16,9%. Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for smaller percentages at 2,8% and 0,2%, respectively.

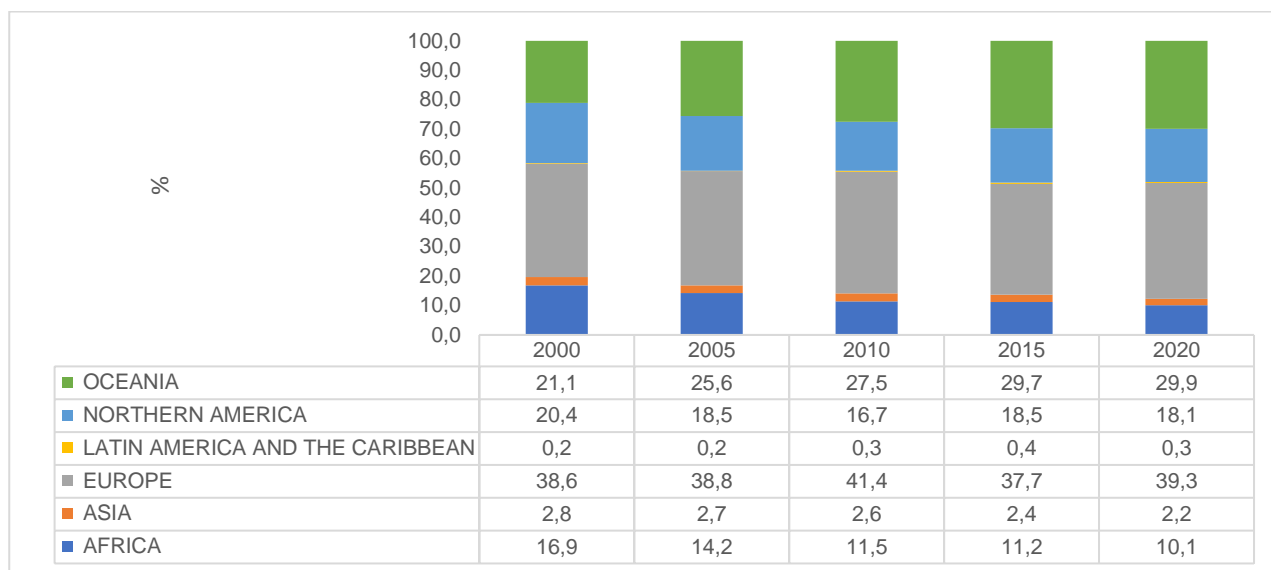
As we move to 2005, the distribution remains relatively consistent. Europe still leads with 38,8%, while Africa's share decreases slightly to 14,2%. Northern America and Oceania maintain their positions, contributing 18,5% and 25,6%, respectively. Asia's share remains at 2,7%, and Latin America and the Caribbean increase slightly to 0,2%.

In 2010, Europe's share grows to 41,4%, strengthening its position as the primary region of residence for South African citizens. Africa's share declines to 11,5%, and Northern America decreases to 16,7%. Oceania's proportion increases to 27,5%, and Asia remains at 2,6%. Latin America and the Caribbean see a slight rise to 0,3%.

By 2015, Europe's share decreases to 37,7%, while Africa's proportion remains relatively stable at 11,2%. Northern America's share increases to 18,5%, and Oceania expands to 29,7%. Asia decreases to 2,4%, and Latin America and the Caribbean reach 0,4%.

In 2020, Europe continues to be the top region of residence, with a share of 39,3%. Africa's share decreases to 10,1%, while Northern America's share is at 18,1%. Oceania has a substantial presence, representing 29,9%. Asia accounts for 2,2%, and Latin America and the Caribbean is at 0,3%.

Figure 3.2: Percentage distribution of region of residence of South African citizens residing abroad, 2000–2020, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020



Source: UNDESA accessed 04/10/2023

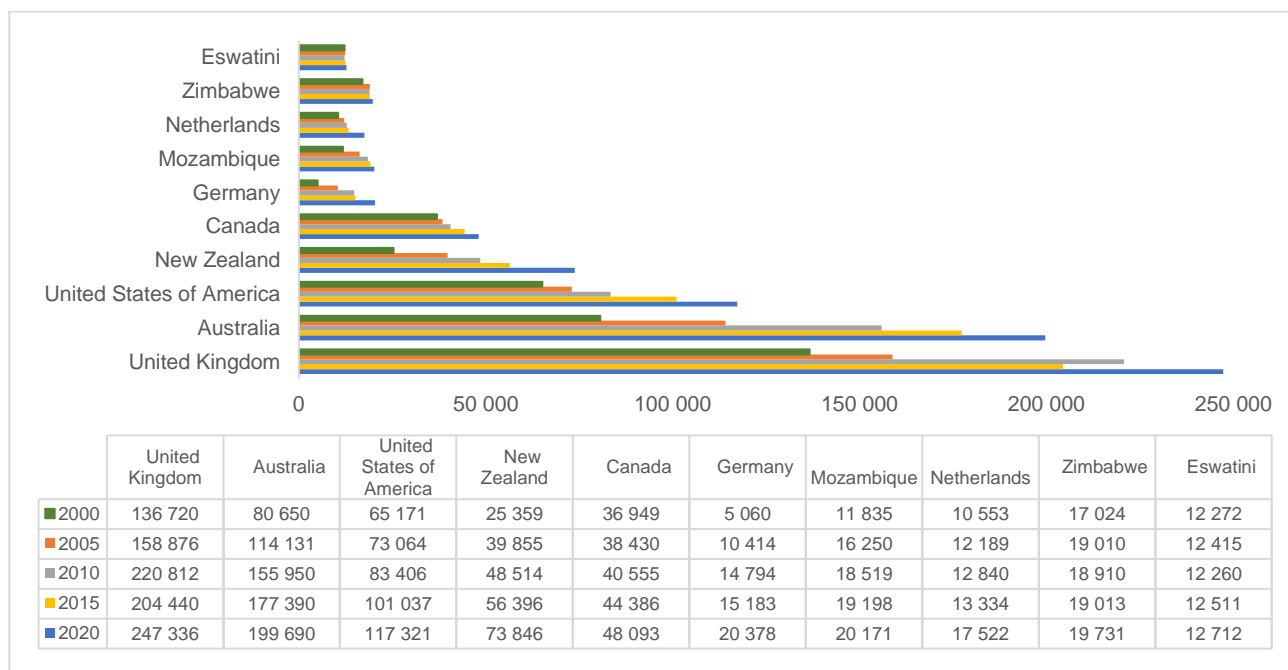
Figure 3.3 below provides a detailed breakdown of South African citizens residing abroad in the top 10 receiving countries for the years 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020. The figure highlights the number of South African citizens living in each of these countries during the specified years.

Notably, the United Kingdom (UK) emerged as a consistent favourite among South African emigrants, with the number of citizens living there steadily increasing from 136 720 in 2000 to 247 336 in 2020. Australia also attracted a significant number of South African emigrants, with their population growing from 80 650 in 2000 to 199 690 in 2020, making it one of the preferred destinations. The United States of America (USA) was another popular choice, with the number of South African emigrants increasing from 65 171 in 2000 to 117 321 in 2020.

New Zealand witnessed a substantial rise in South African emigrants, from 25 359 in 2000 to 73 846 in 2020. Canada also became a destination of choice, with South African emigrants increasing from 36 949 in 2000 to 48 093 in 2020. Germany saw a notable rise, from 5 060 in 2000 to 20 378 in 2020. South African emigrants residing in Mozambique increased from 11 835 in 2000 to 20 171 in 2020, and the Netherlands saw growth from 10 553 in 2000 to 17 522 in 2020.

Although the number of South African citizens in Zimbabwe remained relatively stable over the years, Eswatini and Portugal also maintained consistent communities of South African emigrants. The data reveal that South African citizens chose a variety of destinations for their expatriate experiences, with the UK, Australia, and the USA emerging as the top three choices for South African expatriates, demonstrating significant growth over the years. This figure is valuable for understanding the trends and preferences of South African citizens when it comes to living abroad.

Figure 3.3: Top ten receiving countries of South African citizens residing abroad, 2000–2020, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020

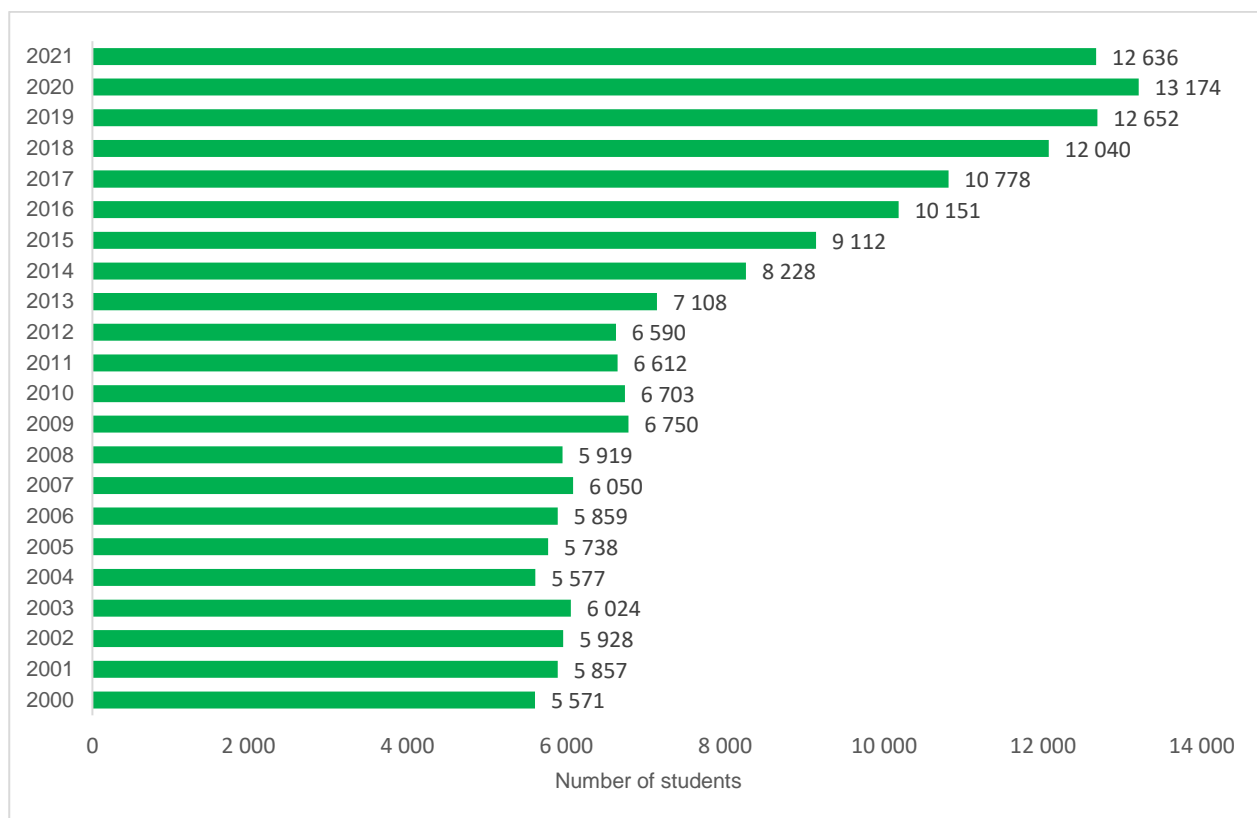


Source: UNDESA accessed 04/10/2023

A.3.2 Emigration for study purposes

Figure 3.4 below provides information on South African students studying abroad between 2000 to 2021. The data offer insights into the trends and fluctuations of South African students. Data indicate that the number of South African students studying abroad are on an increasing trend. However, there have been notable fluctuations from 2000 to 2011. Furthermore, a higher number of South African students was reported in the year 2020 with the frequency of 13 174. However, in 2021 there was a slight decrease to 12 636 students.

Figure 3.4: Description of South African students who are studying abroad, 2000–2021



Source: UNESCO 02/10/2023

A.3.3 Involuntary emigration

Involuntary migration is defined as a migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion (IOM, 2019b). Data on involuntary emigration are scarce and difficult to source. For the purpose of this report, indicators were sourced from the UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database.

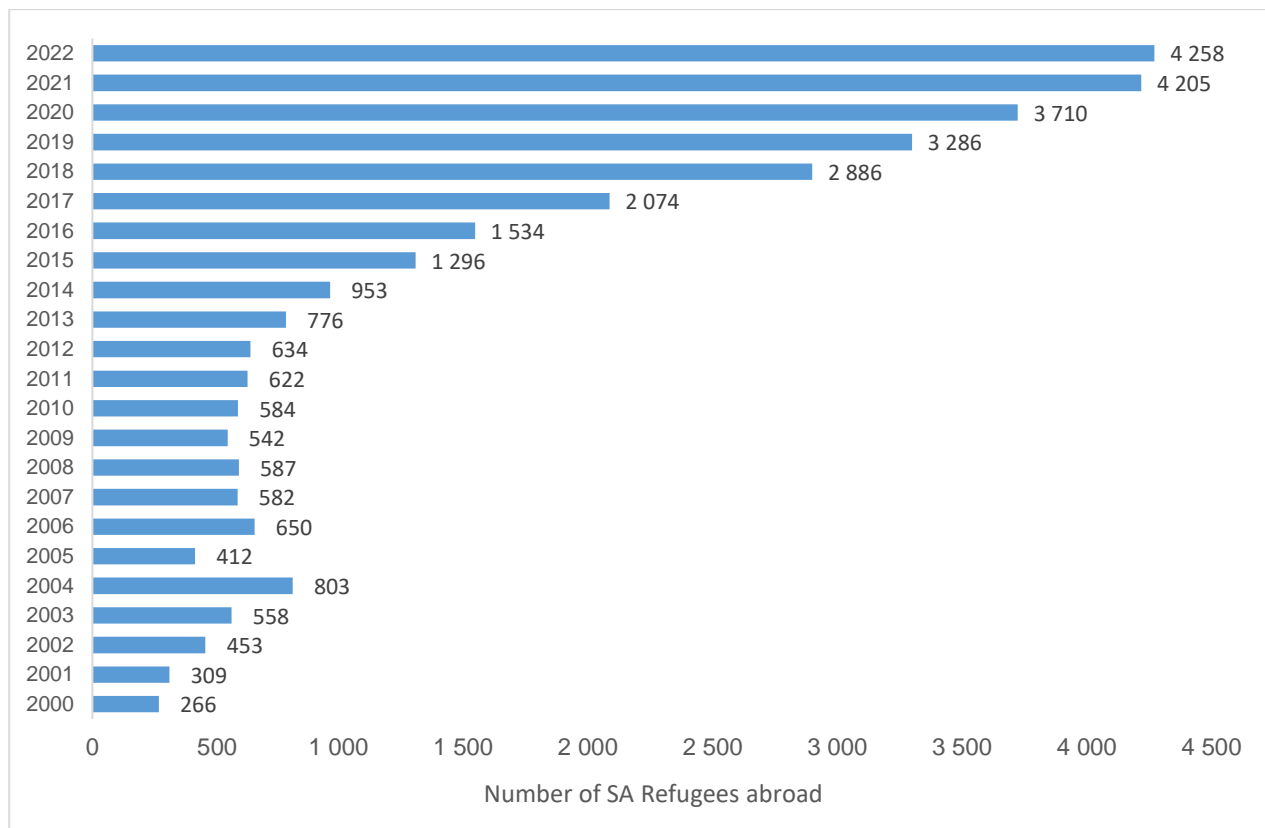
Figure 3.5 below provides data on the number of South African refugees abroad for the years 2000 to 2022. The figure demonstrates the changes in the South African refugee population over this period, indicating trends in emigration due to various factors. In 2000, there were 266 South African refugees living abroad. Over the next few years, the number of refugees increased, reaching 803 in 2004. This period saw a substantial rise in the South African refugee population, suggesting significant factors driving emigration during that time.

From 2005 to 2009, there was a period of fluctuation and decline in the number of South African refugees. In 2009, the refugee population had decreased to 542, reflecting a decrease in emigration. Starting in 2010, there was a renewed increase in the number of South African refugees living abroad, and this upward trend continued. By 2015, the number of South African refugees had more than doubled since 2009, reaching 1 296.

In 2016 and 2017, the South African refugee population continued to grow significantly, with 1 534 refugees in 2016 and 2 074 in 2017. The growth trend persisted in subsequent years, with 2 886 South African refugees in 2018, 3 286 in 2019, and 3 710 in 2020, indicating a steady increase in emigration. In 2021, the number of

South African refugees abroad further increased to 4 205. The year 2022 saw 4 258 South African refugees living abroad, continuing the upward trend, albeit with a slightly smaller increase compared with previous years.

Figure 3.5: Distribution of South African refugees abroad, 2000–2022



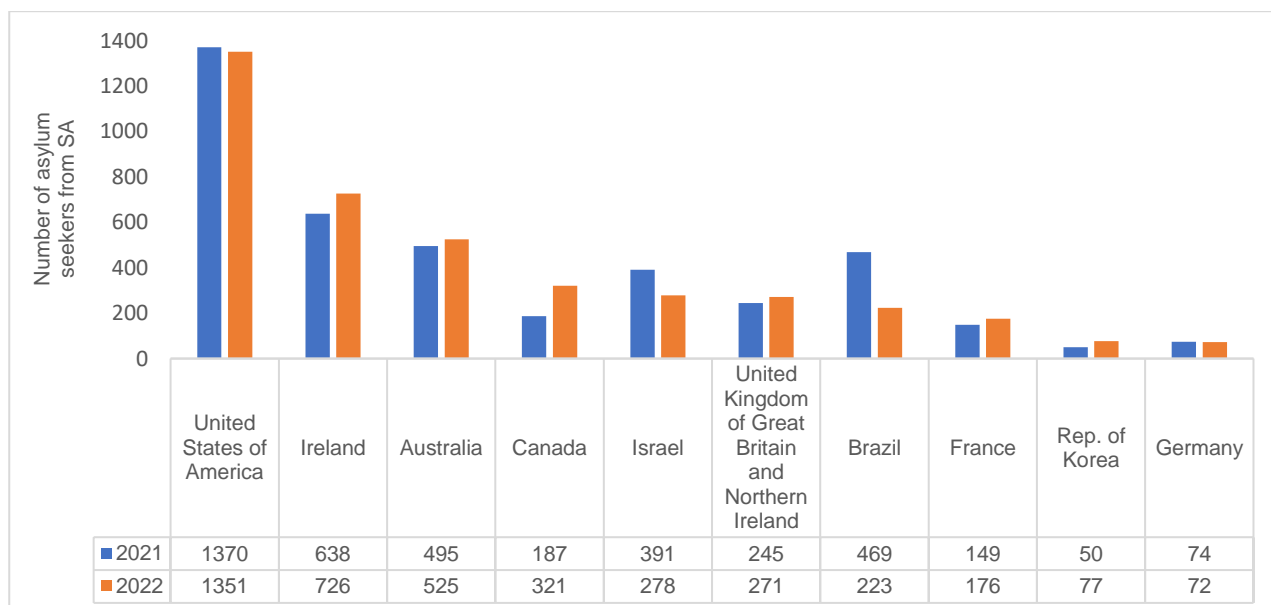
Source: UNHCR, extracted data: 02/10/2023

Figure 3.6 below presents the top countries where South African citizens sought asylum in 2021 and 2022. It provides insight into the destinations where South Africans have sought asylum. The decision to seek asylum outside South Africa is often driven by a complex interplay of political, economic, social, and environmental factors, as well as individual circumstances and vulnerabilities. It underscores the importance of addressing root causes of migration, promoting human rights and social justice, and ensuring access to protection for those in need.

In 2021, the United States of America was the primary destination for South African asylum seekers, with 1 370 individuals seeking refuge. This indicates a significant number of South Africans looking for asylum in the United States due to various concerns. Ireland was another prominent destination, with 638 South African asylum seekers in 2021. It suggests that Ireland was a popular choice for those seeking refuge from South Africa. Australia received 495 South African asylum seekers in 2021, marking it as a destination for those looking for asylum outside of South Africa. Canada and Israel also received South African asylum seekers, with 187 and 391 individuals, respectively in 2021. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Brazil, France, the Republic of Korea, and Germany had smaller numbers of South African asylum seekers in 2021.

In 2022, the trend continued with the United States of America still being the leading destination for South African asylum seekers, albeit with a slightly lower number of 1 351 individuals. Ireland saw an increase in the number of asylum seekers from South Africa, with 726 individuals in 2022, indicating its continued popularity among South African asylum seekers. Australia also witnessed a rise in the number of South African asylum seekers, with 525 individuals in 2022, suggesting its appeal as a destination for asylum seekers. Canada experienced a significant increase in South African asylum seekers, with 321 individuals seeking refuge in 2022, reflecting a notable upward trend. Israel, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Brazil, France, the Republic of Korea, and Germany continued to receive South African asylum seekers in 2022, with varying numbers.

Figure 3.6: Top ten countries for asylum seekers from South Africa, 2021 and 2022

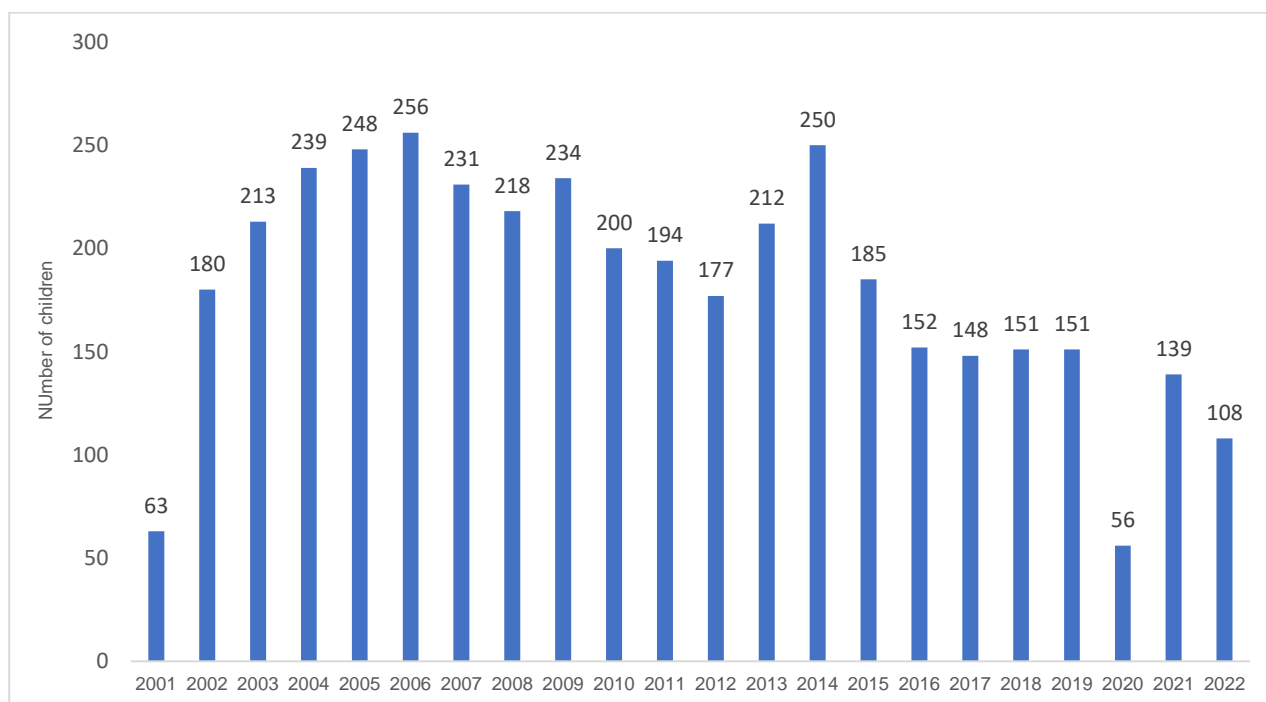


Source: UNHCR, extracted data: 02/10/2023

A.3.4 Distribution of emigrated children due to adoptions

Figure 3.7 below shows the distribution of emigrated children due to adoptions, from 2001 to 2022 based on data from the Department of Social Development. There was an increase in the number of children emigrated due to adoptions from 2001 (63) to 2006 (256), decreasing to 177 by 2012. In 2013 there were 212 children emigrated due to adoptions, and 250 in 2014. This again decreased to 185 in 2015, and then remained relatively stable in 2016 to 2019 at around 150. The decrease to 56 children emigrated due to adoptions in 2020 is most likely due to the effects of the coronavirus lockdowns. In 2021 this figure increased to 139, decreasing slightly to 108 in 2022.

Figure 3.7: Distribution of emigrated children due to adoptions, 2001–2022



Source: Department of Social Development, 2001–2022

A.4 IRREGULAR MIGRATION

At the time of writing the report, there was no universally accepted definition of irregular migration. The term is generally used to identify persons moving outside regular migration channels. Stats SA, as an official producer of statistics in South Africa, does not collect data on irregular migration from household surveys and censuses. The most commonly available data on irregular migration are derived indirectly from administrative sources such as the Department of Home Affairs, where they measure compliance with migration legislation in combination with survey and census data.

Irregular migration in South Africa has been a complex issue for a long time with several contributing factors. The concept of irregular migration to South Africa, particularly from neighbouring countries, encompasses various reasons such as overstaying, crossing borders with illegal documents, and failing to comply with the legal conditions of the country of destination (Munyoka, 2020). Irregular migration from neighbouring countries to South Africa follows the Lee's Pull and Push Migration model, with migrants motivated by job opportunities, affordable health care, peace, and freedom.

South Africa has been attracting migrants from neighbouring countries due to its relatively stable economy and perceived employment opportunities, leading to significant inflows of people seeking better livelihoods (Bhorat et al. 2002; Sekyere, 2019). The challenges associated with irregular migration include irregular border crossings, human trafficking, and the exploitation of migrants (Crush, 2005). South Africa has implemented measures to address irregular migration, including border control initiatives, but the porous nature of some borders, coupled with socio-economic disparities, continues to fuel the problem of irregular migration (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016) (DHA, 2017). The government and stakeholders grapple with finding a balance between securing borders, safeguarding human rights, and addressing the socio-economic drivers of irregular migration in South Africa.

South Africa is committed to the effective implementation of the UN Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the protection of all migrants, aligning with the values of human dignity and equality enshrined in its constitution (DHA 2017). Irregular migration poses a considerable problem for South Africa in migration management, population planning, infrastructure development, resource management, governance, social services, economic development, and security. The government can only work with what it knows with a reasonable margin of error. Whilst concerns have been raised from a planning perspective that the number of irregular migrants impact the amount of resources that are availed to different government structures, it must be noted that in terms of equitable share processes guided by National Treasury, these are done inclusive of all categories of persons.

Irregular migration trends generally show the mixed movement of people from the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region to South Africa. In the East and Horn of Africa, irregular migration is examined in the context of human trafficking and smuggling, particularly from countries such as Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Crush 2011).

This complex and dangerous journey of irregular migration exposes individuals to human rights and protection risks, and is of growing concern to states who view it as a violation of their national laws and a threat to their sovereignty, security, and economy (Long & Crisp 2011). Additionally, the country has experienced xenophobic violence and struggles with managing the asylum system effectively, leading to a decline in the quality and efficiency of refugee status determination.

The irregular movement of people to South Africa presents important implications for the security of the state and its citizens (Centre for Development and Enterprise, 2011). The government has a legitimate interest in controlling unauthorised entry within the limits of international human rights and refugee law, including the right to seek asylum and the principle of non-deportation. Developing protection-sensitive entry systems and rights-based approaches is considered essential to address the challenges of irregular migration and reduce the vulnerability of new arrivals while making borders safe and secure.

The government of South Africa is facing difficulties in mobilising accurate data on irregular immigration due to its irregular nature and the challenges of estimating the volume of irregular immigrants. Additionally, the literature highlights the government's efforts to address irregular immigration through legislative measures, reflecting the seriousness with which the South African government is striving towards implementing a humane and fair immigration policy. Efforts are in place to consider a variety of methods based on diverse data sources to try to estimate the size of the irregular immigrant component of the population.

A.5 SAFETY AND SECURITY

This section provides insights relating to safety and security for the South African population, including persons born outside South Africa. A broader concept of safety and security was embraced to align policing practices with the Constitution. Emphasis was placed on ensuring the legitimacy, accountability and effectiveness of the security and criminal justice functions. The democratic state sought to create a criminal justice system representative of the population regarding gender, disability and race. The importance of involving citizens in creating a safe atmosphere for all was emphasised. Data in this section are collected administratively from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the South African Police Service and the Department of Home Affairs.

Table 5.1 below shows that in 2017, there were a total of 2 995 immigrants incarcerated, comprising 1 325 unsentenced and 1 670 sentenced individuals. This represented 1,7% of the total inmate population, which consisted of 177 599 individuals. The year 2018 saw an increase in the number of incarcerated immigrants, with a total of 3 746, of which 1 609 were unsentenced and 2 137 were sentenced. Immigrants constituted 2,1% of the total inmate population, which numbered 177 712.

In 2019, the number of immigrants incarcerated further increased to 4 473, with 2 254 being unsentenced and 2 219 sentenced. Immigrants made up 2,8% of the total inmate population, which amounted to 162 325 individuals. The year 2020 had a total of 3 257 immigrants incarcerated, consisting of 1 707 unsentenced and 1 550 sentenced individuals. Immigrants accounted for 2,3% of the total inmate population, which was 138 713 inmates.

As at 15 November 2021, there were 3 523 immigrants incarcerated, with 1 780 being unsentenced and 1 743 sentenced. This represented 2,6% of the total inmate population, which was 135 476 individuals.

On average over the five-year period, there were 3 599 immigrants incarcerated, with an average of 1 735 unsentenced and 1 864 sentenced individuals. Immigrants made up 2,3% of the average total inmate population, which was 158 365 individuals.

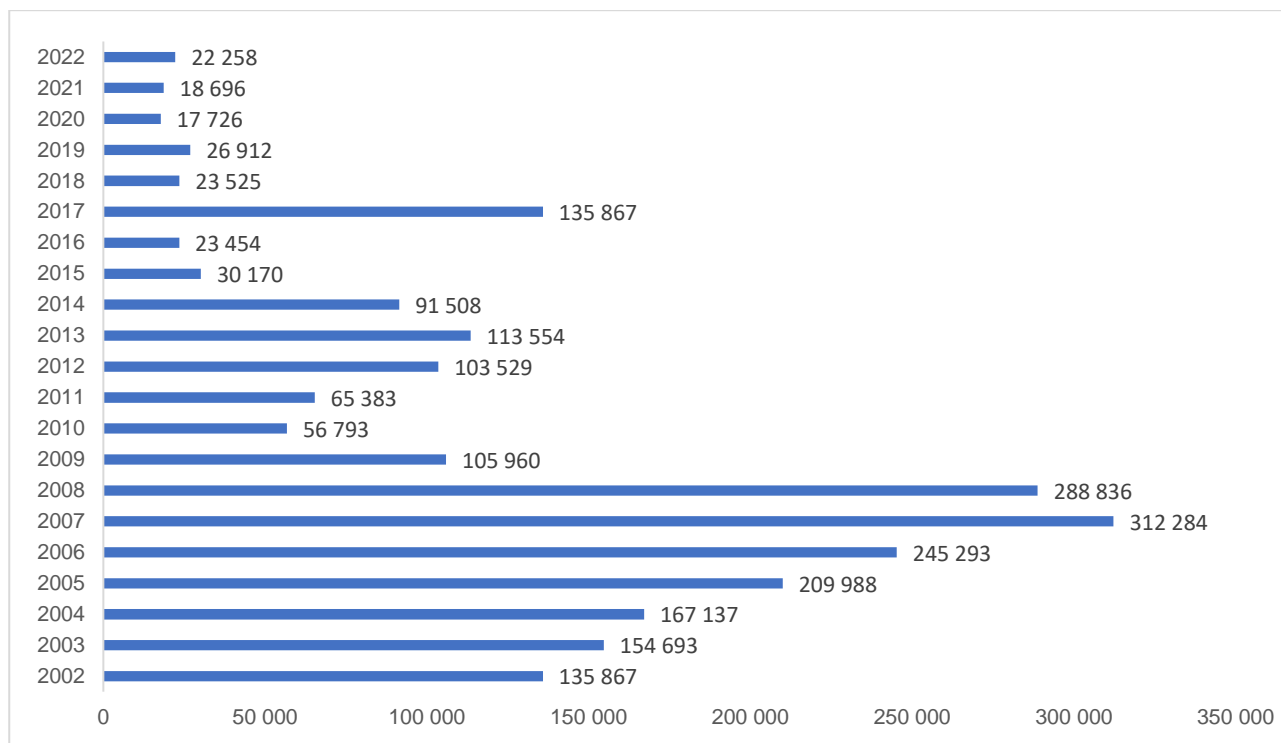
Table 5.1: Distribution of immigrants who are incarcerated, 2017–2021

Period	Number of immigrants incarcerated			Total number of inmates incarcerated			Proportion of immigrants to total inmates
	Unsentenced	Sentenced	Total	Unsentenced	Sentenced	Total	
2017	1 325	1 670	2 995	31 604	145 995	177 599	1,7
2018	1 609	2 137	3 746	44 020	133 692	177 712	2,1
2019	2 254	2 219	4 473	46 308	116 017	162 325	2,8
2020	1 707	1 550	3 257	47 842	90 871	138 713	2,3
2021	1 780	1 743	3 523	51 727	83 749	135 476	2,6
Average over five years	1 735	1 864	3 599	44 300	114 065	158 365	2,3

Source: Institute for security studies, 2022 (Correctional services)

Figure 5.1 below provides the number of deportations by year from 2002 to 2022. Data show that the number of deportations has been fluctuating over time, with a largely decreasing pattern. A significant number of deportations was observed in 2007 (312 284), followed by 2008 (288 836) and 2006 (245 293).

Figure 5.1: Number of deportations, 2002–2022



Source: Department of Home Affairs 2002–2022

Table 5.2 below present the distribution of reported cases of immigrants as accused individuals in South Africa by province for the years spanning from 2013–2014 to 2022–2023. The table provides a breakdown of the number of reported cases for each province during each of these years. In the Eastern Cape, the data show that the number of reported cases fluctuated over the years. For example, in 2013–2014 there were 267 reported cases, while in 2019–2020 the number was 439. The most recent data for 2022–2023 indicate an increase to 473 reported cases.

The Free State exhibited variations as well, with 2015–2016 marking a notable increase with 1 134 reported cases. In 2021–2022, the number of reported cases reached 464, continuing to rise to 484 in 2022–2023. Gauteng, a heavily populated province, consistently reported higher numbers, starting with 3 596 cases in 2013–2014. The figures show fluctuations over the years, with 4 102 cases in 2021–2022 and a slight drop to 3 744 cases in 2022–2023.

Other provinces, such as KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Northern Cape, and Western Cape, also reported varying numbers of cases in each respective year. These figures provide an overview of reported cases of immigrants as accused individuals by province over a ten-year period, reflecting both regional trends and variations in these cases.

Table 5.2: Distribution of reported cases of immigrants as an accused by province, financial year 2013–2023

Province	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022	2022–2023
Eastern Cape	267	327	365	411	359	609	439	426	422	473
Free State	572	545	1 134	1 697	1 712	2 162	508	426	464	484
Gauteng	3 596	3 834	4 023	4 628	4 058	4 854	3 939	3 589	4 102	3 744
KwaZulu-Natal	773	626	610	633	642	743	663	473	635	561
Limpopo	1 095	813	795	700	667	721	652	512	616	518
Mpumalanga	471	493	551	433	476	565	479	478	482	382
North West	875	752	612	678	502	574	456	444	529	446
Northern Cape	72	100	99	122	109	102	103	105	133	128
Western Cape	982	811	888	948	983	1 246	1 182	1 212	1 350	1 178
Total	8 703	8 301	9 077	10 250	9 508	11 576	8 421	7 665	8 733	7 914

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics 2013–2023

Table 5.3 below illustrates the distribution of reported cases involving immigrants as accused individuals in South Africa, with a focus on the top 5 sending countries of origin (nationality). The data span a decade, covering the years from 2013–2014 to 2022–2023, and provides insights into the number of reported cases for each nationality during each of these years.

The table indicates that the number of reported cases for Zimbabwean nationals has exhibited fluctuations. The data show 3 686 cases in 2013–2014, with a gradual decline to 3 160 cases in 2022–2023. The highest point within this timeframe was 5 175 cases in 2018–2019.

The data reveal varying numbers of reported cases for Mozambican nationals over the years. The numbers increased from 1 182 cases in 2013–2014 to 1 498 cases in 2018–2019. In 2022–2023, the table records 1 013 cases.

Reported cases for Lesotho nationals display fluctuations throughout the years. The table shows a peak of 1 443 cases in 2018–2019, while 884 cases were reported in 2022–2023.

The data show that reported cases involving Malawian nationals increased from 496 cases in 2013–2014 to 661 cases in 2022–2023, with variations in between.

The number of reported cases for Nigerian nationals started at 764 in 2013–2014 but declined to 545 cases in 2022–2023, with fluctuations noted in the intervening years.

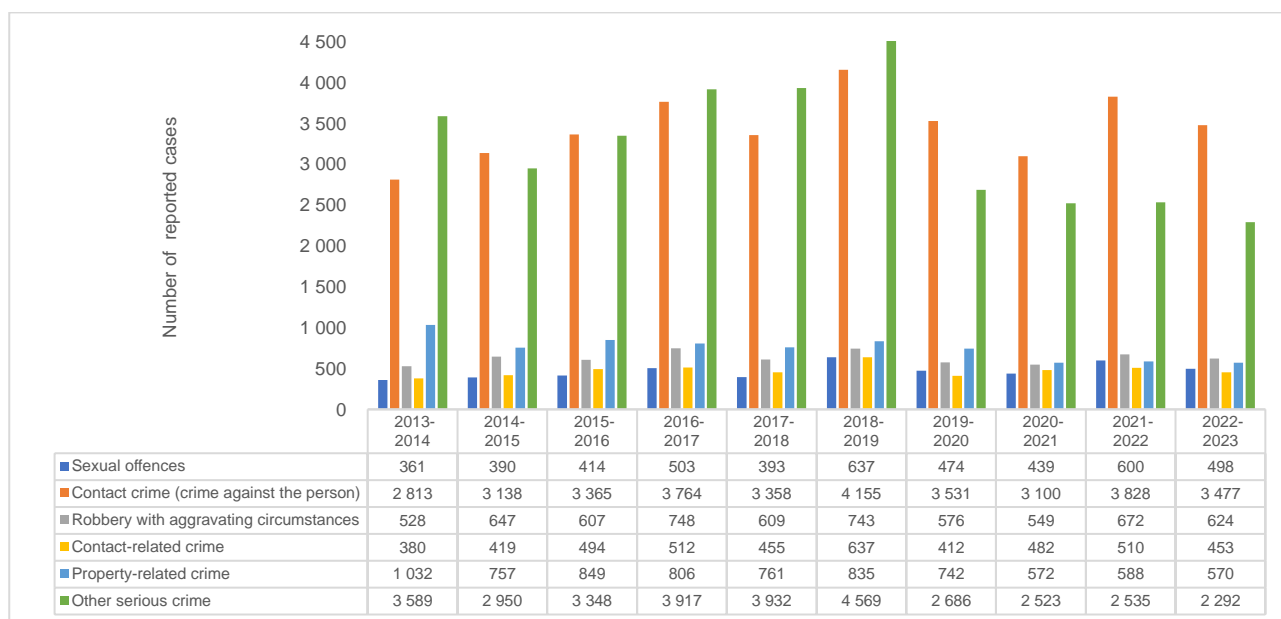
Table 5.3: Top five countries of origin of reported cases of immigrants as an accused, financial year 2013–2023

Nationality	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022	2022–2023
Zimbabwean	3 686	3 445	3 770	4 431	4 401	5 175	3 516	3 233	3 579	3 160
Mozambican	1 182	1 050	1 170	1 383	1 245	1 498	1 065	914	1 083	1 013
Lesotho	695	843	1 003	1 207	1 110	1 443	847	736	1 015	884
Malawian	496	518	535	604	529	737	638	609	659	661
Nigerian	764	790	766	863	694	807	594	497	600	545

Source: SAPS Crime Statistics 2013–2023

Figure 5.2 below shows the number of reported cases of immigrants as an accused by crime category between 2013 and 2023. Sexual offences have remained relatively stable throughout the period, increasing slightly from 2018–2019 onwards but remaining below 10% of all crimes committed. Contact crime has increased throughout the period, with a total of 2 813 accused in 2013–2014 to 3 477 in 2022–2023. Robbery with aggravating circumstances increased slightly over the period with 528 in 2013–2014 compared to 748 in 2016–2017, decreasing again overall to 624 in 2022–2023. Property-related crime, on the other hand, decreased from 1 032 in 2013–2014 to 570 in 2022–2023.

Figure 5.2: Number of reported cases of immigrants as an accused by crime category, financial year 2013–2023



Source: SAPS Crime Statistics 2013–2023

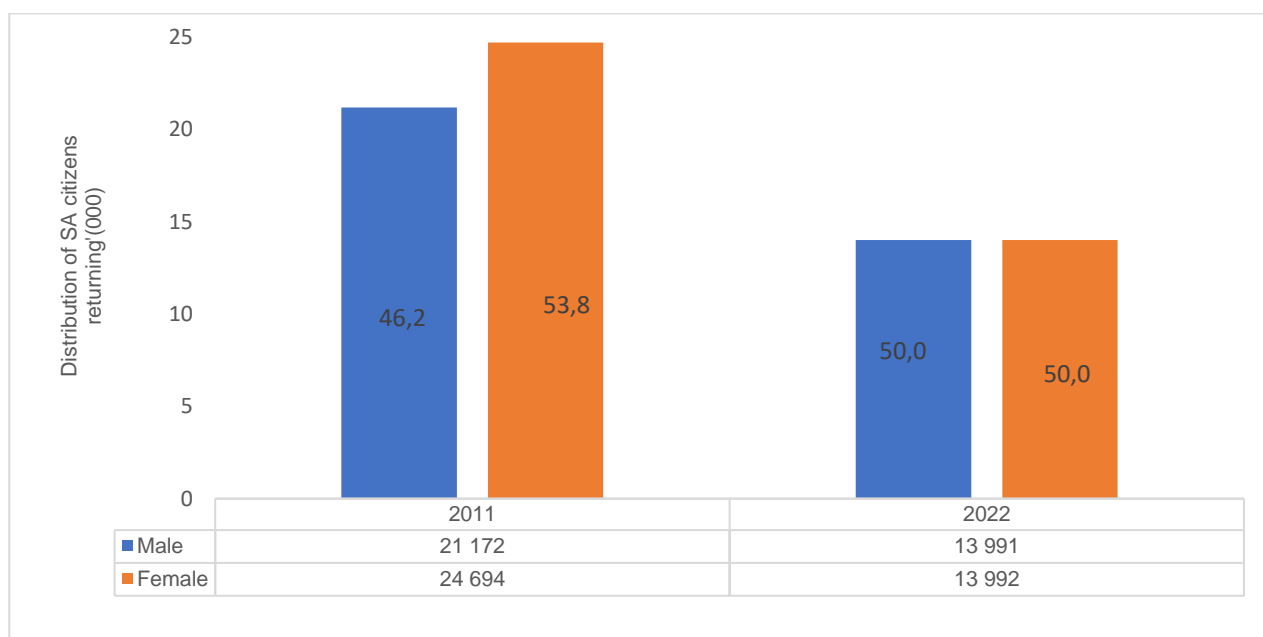
A.6 RETURN MIGRATION

Return migration it is when individuals or groups of people move back to their country of origin after residing in another country for a period of time. Return migrants are persons who are born and are citizens of South Africa, who indicated that their previous place of residence was outside the country and are currently residing in the country. This migration pattern involves a reversal of the migration process, where individuals return to their place of birth, ancestry, or citizenship after living abroad temporarily or permanently.

Information on return migration is important for several reasons, as it provides valuable insights into migration patterns, social dynamics, and policy implications. Return migration contributes to the overall understanding of migration patterns and trends. By tracking the movement of individuals who return to their home countries, policymakers, researchers, and organisations can gain insights into the drivers, routes, and volume of migration flows. Furthermore, data on return migration can inform the development of migration policies and programmes in both origin and destination countries. Understanding the factors influencing return decisions, such as economic opportunities, social ties, and legal frameworks, can help policymakers design more effective policies to address the needs and preferences of migrants.

Figure 6.1 below provides insights into the distribution of South African citizens who returned from their previous country of residence in the years 2011 and 2022, categorised by sex. In 2011, a total of 45 866 South African citizens returned. Of these, 21 172 (46,2%) were male, while 24 694 (53,8%) were female. In 2022, a total of 27 983 South African citizens returned. This year saw a shift, with 13 991 (50,0%) being male, and an equal number of 13 992 (50,0%) being female.

Figure 6.1: Distribution of South African citizens returning from previous country of residence by sex, 2011 and 2022



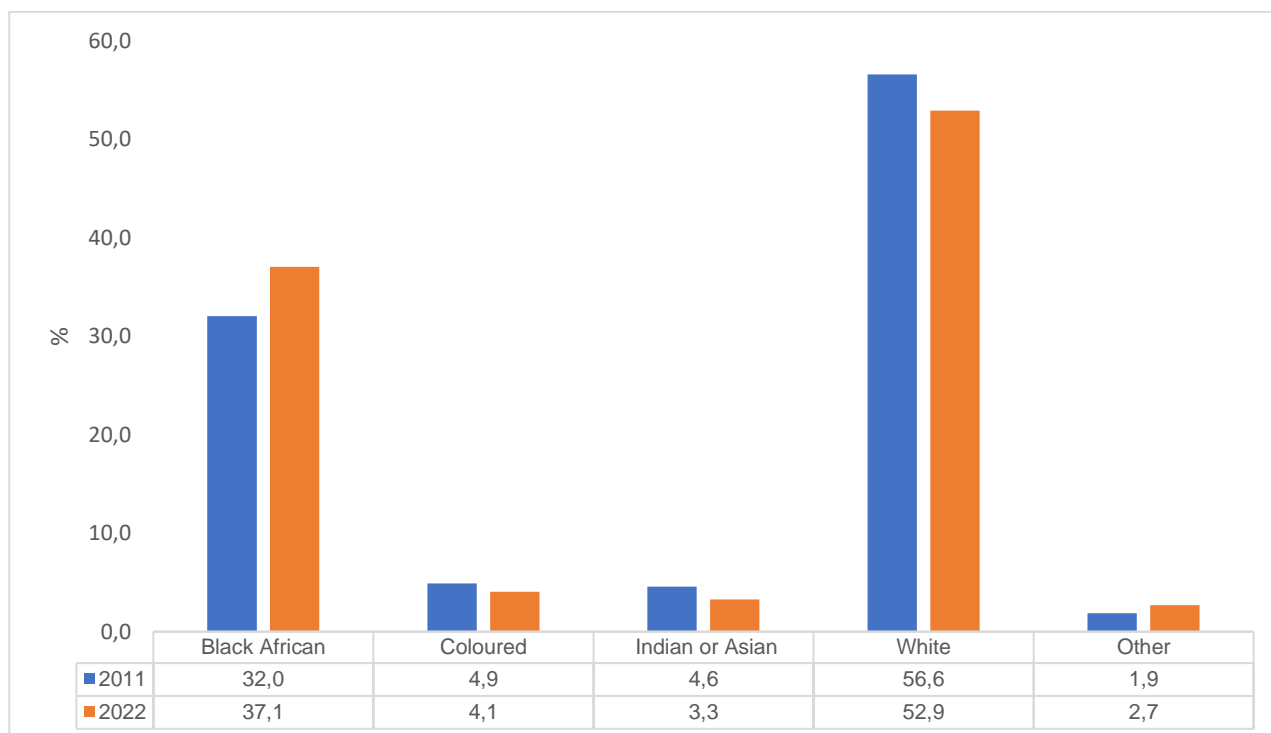
Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

Figure 6.2 below illustrates the distribution of South African citizens returning by population group in both 2011 and 2022. The data highlight the changes in the demographic composition of returnees over this 11-year period.

In 2011, the majority of returnees were classified as white, constituting 56,6% of the total returnees. Black Africans were the second-largest group, making up 32% of the returnees. The coloured population group accounted for 4,9%, while the Indian/Asian population group constituted 4,6%. The 'other' category was the smallest, representing 1,9% of the total returnees.

In 2022, there was a notable shift in the composition of returnees. White South African citizens still constituted the largest group, but their proportion decreased to 52,9%. Black Africans, on the other hand, saw an increase in their proportion, making up 37,1% of the total returnees, surpassing the white population group. The coloured population group remained relatively stable at 4,1%, while the Indian/Asian population group decreased slightly to 3,3%. The 'other' category increased to 2,7% of the total returnees. These changes suggest a shift in the demographic patterns of South African citizens returning.

Figure 6.2: Percentage distribution of South African citizens returning by population group, 2011 and 2022



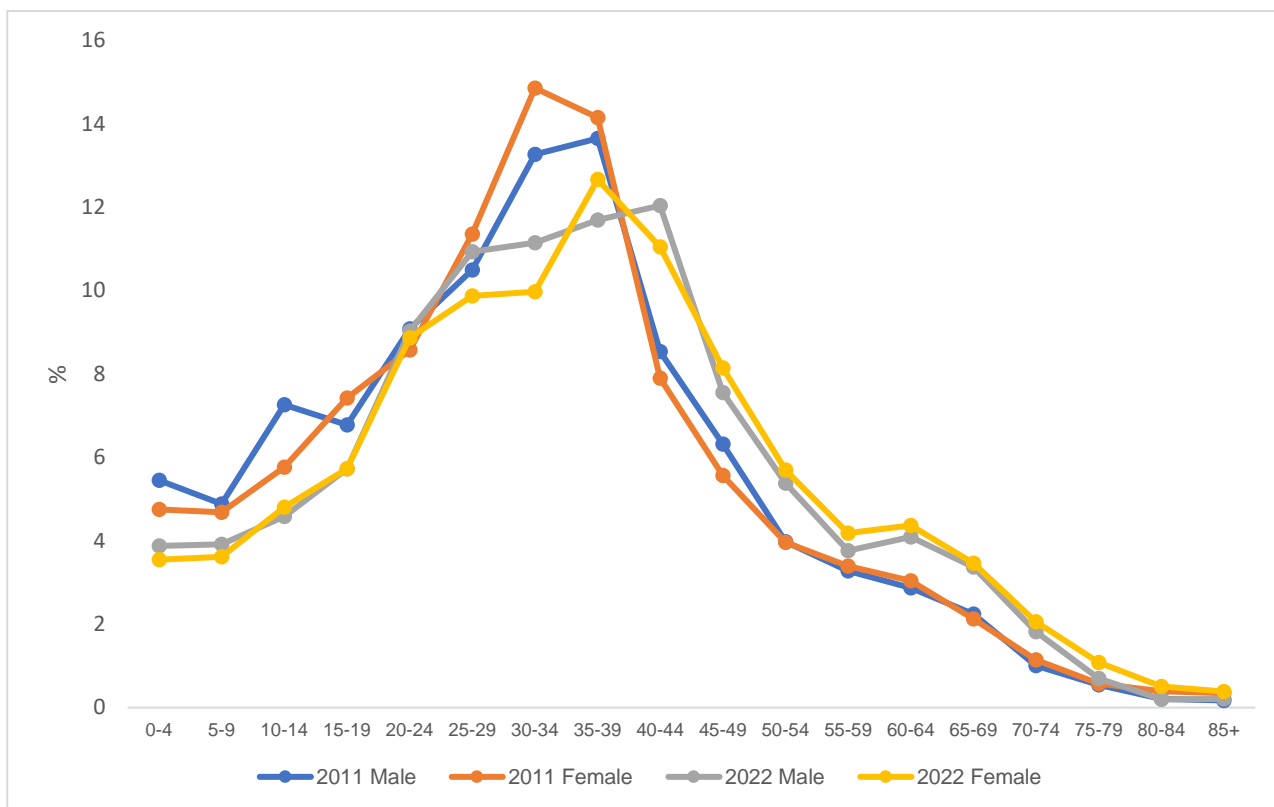
Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

Figure 6.3 below illustrates the percentage distribution of South African citizens returning by age and sex for the years 2011 and 2022. The data provide valuable insights into the changing age and sex composition of returnees over this 11-year period.

In 2011, there were more male returnees across all age groups compared with their female counterparts. For example, in the 30–34 age range, 13,3% of male returnees were in this group, while 14,9% of female returnees fell into the same category. The same trend of more male returnees persisted in 2011.

In 2022, the pattern of more male returnees continued across all age groups, with the percentage distribution remaining quite similar to 2011. The most significant shift occurred in the 70–74 age group, where the percentage of male returnees increased from 1,0% in 2011 to 1,8% in 2022. However, the gender distribution among returnees was almost equitable in 2022, with slight variations as indicated in the data.

Figure 6.3: Percentage distribution of South African citizens returning by age and sex, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

Table 6.1 below provides insights into the voluntary return of South African citizens by province in 2011 and 2022, presenting both numerical counts and percentages. Across provinces, notable trends emerge over the analysed period. In 2011, Gauteng witnessed the highest number of voluntary returnees, with 17 684 individuals representing 38,6% of the total, whereas by 2022, the number decreased to 7 447 returnees, comprising 26,6% of the total. This decline in Gauteng's absolute numbers indicates a shift in voluntary return patterns. Conversely, the Western Cape experienced an increase in the percentage of returnees, rising from 23,3% in 2011 to 35,0% in 2022, despite a slight decrease in absolute numbers. Other provinces, such as the Eastern Cape and Limpopo, saw fluctuations in both absolute numbers and percentages, with varying degrees of change over the period. Notably, Mpumalanga and the North West experienced decreases in both absolute numbers and percentages.

Table 6.1: Distribution of South African citizens returning by province (enumeration), 2011 and 2022

Province	2011		2022	
	N	%	N	%
Western Cape	10 673	23,3	9 782	35,0
Eastern Cape	2 843	6,2	2 252	8,0
Northern Cape	516	1,1	384	1,4
Free State	1 557	3,4	762	2,7
KwaZulu-Natal	5 920	12,9	3 567	12,7
North West	1 546	3,4	890	3,2
Gauteng	17 684	38,6	7 447	26,6
Mpumalanga	3 275	7,1	1 185	4,2
Limpopo	1 851	4,0	1 713	6,1
Total	45 866	100,0	27 983	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

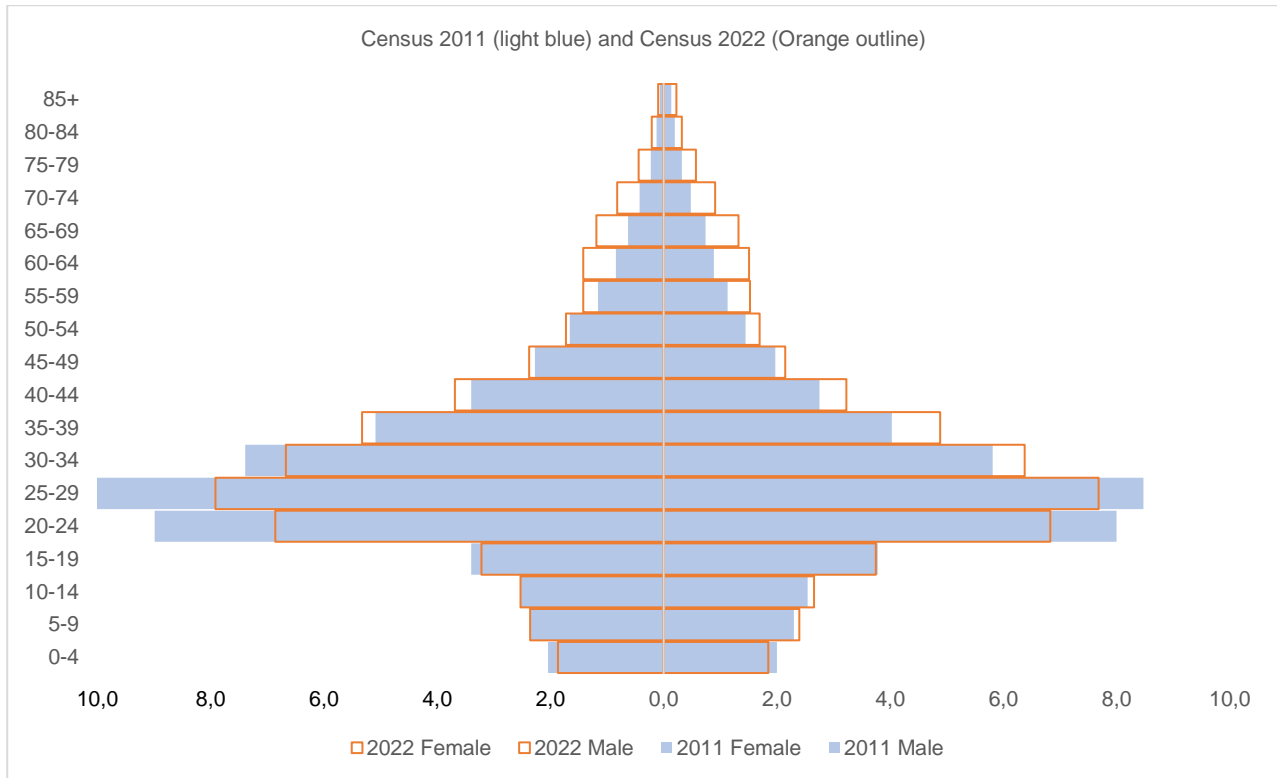
A.7 INTERNAL MIGRATION

This section of the chapter on internal migration deals with analysis of questions on previous residence in relation to the current residence of persons enumerated in Census 2011. Although the census included migration questions for a fixed time interval (between Censuses 2001 and 2011), the analysis in this chapter is limited only to migration between 2006 and 2011 (5 years before the latter census). The questions for migration within the fixed time interval catered for children under the age of 10 years who were born within the census interval and had not moved, as well as those who had moved within that period.

Internal migration refers to the movement of people within the country's borders from one geographic area to another for various reasons, such as economic opportunities, family reunification, education, and lifestyle preferences (Alam & Mamun, 2022; Ginsburg et al. 2021). Today, internal migration flows are driven by factors such as rural-urban migration, with individuals and families moving from rural areas to cities in search of better employment prospects and access to services. Internal migration in South Africa is better understood when contrasting an individual's place of birth against the place of enumeration/of usual residence which will constitute lifetime migration. It is also further understood when contrasting the place of previous residence against the place of enumeration/of usual residence which measures period migration as captured by the population and housing census data. This report analyses period migration as it depicts recent migration that considers movement in the past 10 years before the population and housing census as opposed to lifetime migration.

Figure 7.1 below presents the age and sex distribution of internal migrants between 2011 and 2022. The analysis shows that internal migration in 2022 was less when compared to 2011, which could have been due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its lockdown regulations which had an impact on movement. The figure suggests that, in general, internal migration is low at young ages between 0 and 19 and at its highest for both males and females at ages 20–34, which could indicate the internal migration dynamics in the country.

Figure 7.1: Age and sex distribution of internal migrants between 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

Table 7.1 below presents an intercensal migration analysis that looks at migration flows between censuses (in this case between Censuses 2011 and 2022). The table presents a matrix on province of usual residence and province of previous residence. It is observed that the Western Cape, Northern Cape, North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces showed positive net-migration. This means that more people migrated into these provinces than migrated out. Limpopo recorded the largest negative net-migration, followed by Eastern Cape.

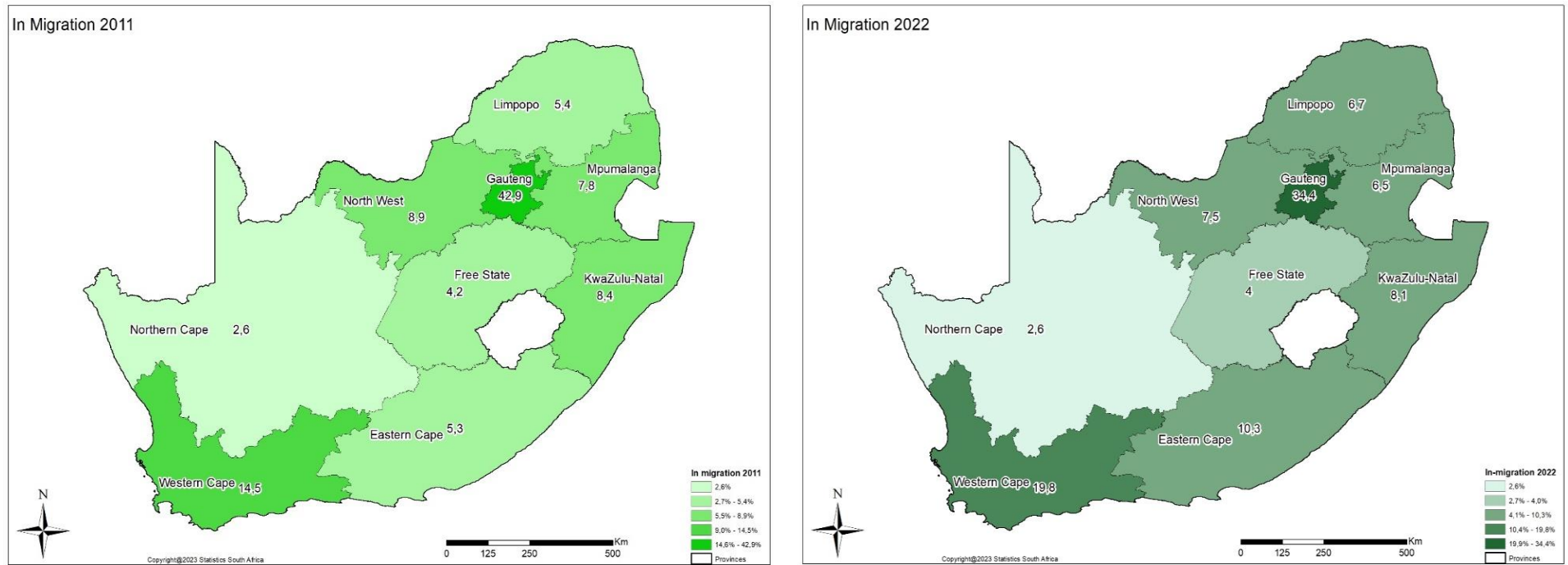
Table 7.1: Distribution of population by province of usual residence and province of previous residence, 2011 and 2022

Province of previous residence	Province of usual residence												
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	IN	Out	Net	Turnover
WC	6 706 820	60 082	8 916	3 564	7 615	2 400	25 780	1 825	2 338	406 549	112 520	294 029	519 069
EC	124 225	6 792 242	2 823	8 051	38 941	10 226	54 323	5 153	3 100	184 213	246 842	-62 629	431 055
NC	11 098	2 751	1 272 160	3 738	1 046	5 198	6 576	897	978	44 376	32 282	12 094	76 658
FS	12 823	7 457	5 339	2 778 654	5 200	9 879	36 289	3 940	2 594	73 643	83 521	-9 878	157 164
KZN	25 730	21 091	1 358	6 337	11 793 136	3 835	100 052	17 505	3 342	169 183	179 250	-10 067	348 433
NW	8 344	4 935	9 249	6 478	2 578	3 522 544	56 780	3 184	7 439	146 262	98 987	47 275	245 249
GP	97 972	46 820	8 184	24 183	53 810	58 128	13 734 733	42 394	64 486	795 330	395 977	399 353	1 191 307
MP	8 176	3 922	1 325	3 956	9 154	5 796	70 811	4 852 153	16 669	132 459	119 809	12 650	252 268
LP	7 540	3 457	1 510	2 629	3 495	14 424	161 877	20 342	6 197 192	151 357	215 274	-63 917	366 631
Outside SA	110 641	33 698	5 672	14 707	47 344	36 376	282 842	37 219	50 411				

Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2022

Figure 7.2 below displays the percentage distribution of period in-migration between 2011 and 2022. The results indicate that Gauteng and Western Cape are the two main provinces that attract a high number of in-migrants between the two censuses. Northern Cape is the province with the lowest share of period migrants (2,6%) for the two periods. Eastern Cape on the other hand shows an increase of 5 percentage points between Census 2011 (5,3%) and Census 2022 (10,3%).

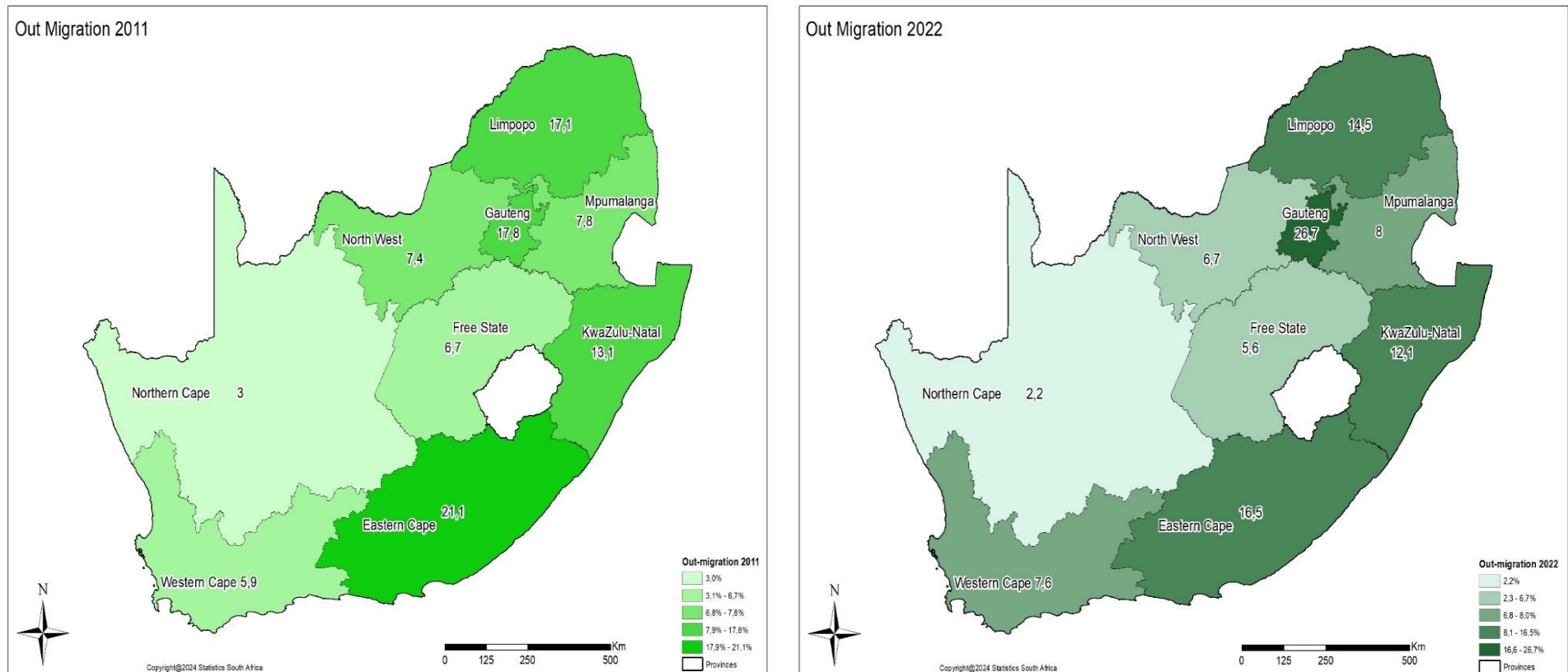
Figure 7.2: Percentage distribution of period in-migration by province, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

Figure 7.3 presents period out-migration by province between 2011 and 2022. In both censuses, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal experienced a high share of out-migration. Notably, Gauteng had a share of 26,7% in Census 2022 and 17,8% in Census 2011. The province with the lowest share of out-migration is Northern Cape with 3,0% in Census 2011 and 2,2% in Census 2022.

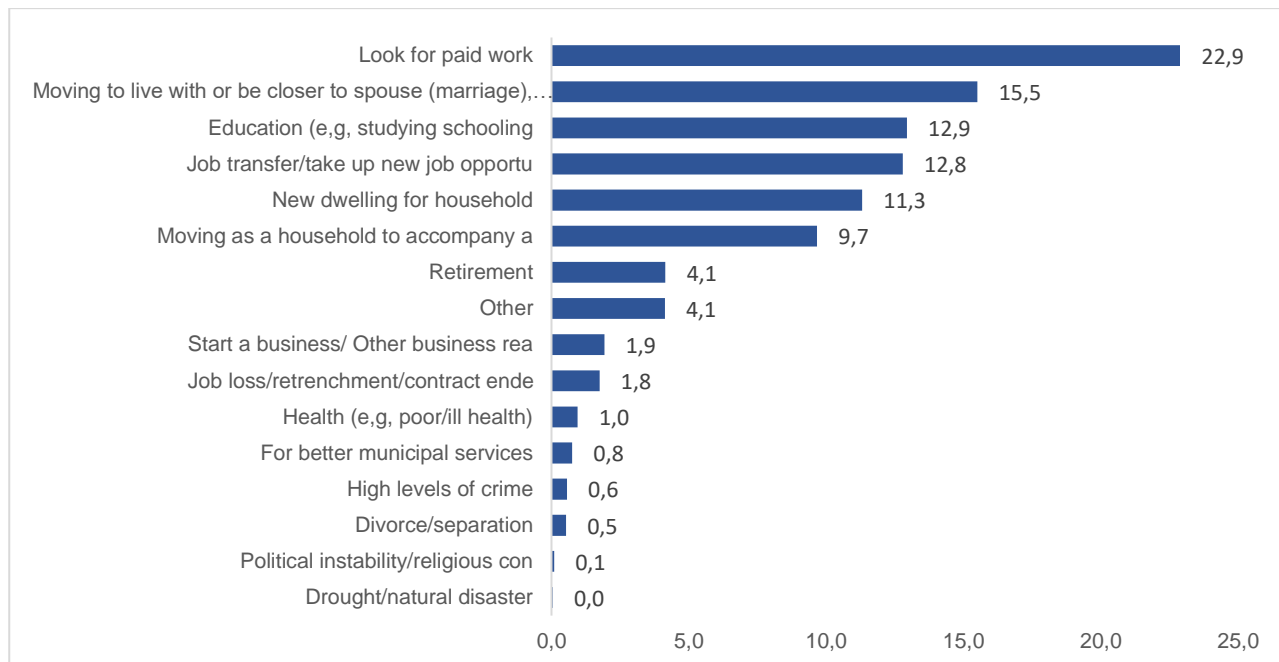
Figure 7.3: Percentage distribution of period out-migration by province, 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

Figure 7.4 below presents the main reasons for moving from previous place of residence in 2022. The results indicate that the main reason for migrating is to look for paid work at 22,9%, followed by moving to live with or be closer to spouse at 15,5%. It is also noteworthy to mention that education (12,9%) and job transfer (12,8%) are some of the top reasons for migrating.

Figure 7.4: Main reason for moving previous place of residence, 2022



Source: Stats SA, Census 2022

Case Study 2: The South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN) and the Agincourt Migrant Health Follow-up Study

Case Study: Internal migration dynamics in South Africa, using longitudinal data from the South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN) and the Agincourt Migrant Health Follow-up Study

Mark Collinson, Carren Ginsburg. 8 Dec 2023

Introduction

The aim of this inset is to complement the national census data with longitudinal data of good quality to give an empirical basis for interpretation of the patterns observed in the national data. To help interpret national census data on internal migration, two sources of longitudinal data are used. The first is a national research infrastructure, the South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN), funded by the Department of Science and Innovation and hosted in the SA Medical Research Council, which comprises harmonised data from three rural population nodes, where in each node health and demographic surveillance (HDSS) is conducted. The second source of longitudinal data is a specialised migrant health follow-up cohort (MHFUS) based on a random sample from the Agincourt HDSS, which is one of the three SAPRIN nodes. The three rural population nodes are the MRC/Wits Agincourt Node in northeast Mpumalanga (population, 120 000), DIMAMO Health and Population Research Centre, U. Limpopo, in central Limpopo, (recently expanded from 35 000 to 100 000 population), and the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) in northern KwaZulu-Natal (population, 125 000). The combined population of over 300 000 individuals from these three South African former 'homeland' locations makes this a good source for triangulation with national data on internal migration for the rural, black sub-population. This is the sub-population that reside and migrate within the country and are most burdened by the spatial inequalities arising from history, and current high levels of unemployment and poverty. This is where migration is frequently undertaken to find opportunity and betterment, sometimes with vulnerability on the way, and this is a moving force behind the dynamics of internal migration and urbanisation. The longitudinal data come from keeping track of demographic events for individuals over long periods. HDSS fieldwork is embedded within communities and information is regularly fed back and the communities are involved in the research in several ways. This combination of longevity and ongoing engagement contributes to overall quality of the demographic data. Furthermore, each HDSS covers a whole population, which adds validity to the statistics.

Methods

In migration analysis, the definition underpins the meaning of a migration rate because it describes who comprises the numerator (of the rate), and the whole population-at-risk is the denominator. In the national census, internal migrants are defined as people who changed their place of residence within the last five years, to the destination place at which the census is being conducted, from another place within the country. To match the national census using HDSS data, a migrant is defined as somebody who joins or leaves a household in the field site population for at least a six-month duration. If a person moves into the HDSS based household, they are an in-migrant and if they leave, they are an out-migrant. In both cases they change their place of residence and thus fit the national census definition of a migrant.

An added categorisation can be made with HDSS data, namely, to decompose the flow of internal migrants into temporary and permanent migrants, in mutually exclusive categories. At the time of recording the migration, the HDSS fieldworker asks the respondent if the migrant remains a household member while they are away, or if they ended their household membership by joining or forming another household. This categorisation enables splitting internal migration into temporary and permanent migration flows, which if added together would again reconstitute the internal migration flow. This is pertinent for social policy in South Africa to the lingering apartheid legacies that have given rise to the former "homelands" or "tribal" areas, where lives and livelihoods are unjustly burdened by the unemployment, poverty and under-resourced infrastructures, the very conditions that the social policy is seeking to mitigate and impact on. The decomposition enables a better understanding of the social, economic and health domains in which South Africans' lives are taking place. Some of this vital knowledge can be lost using only the broader definition of internal migration in the migration rates.

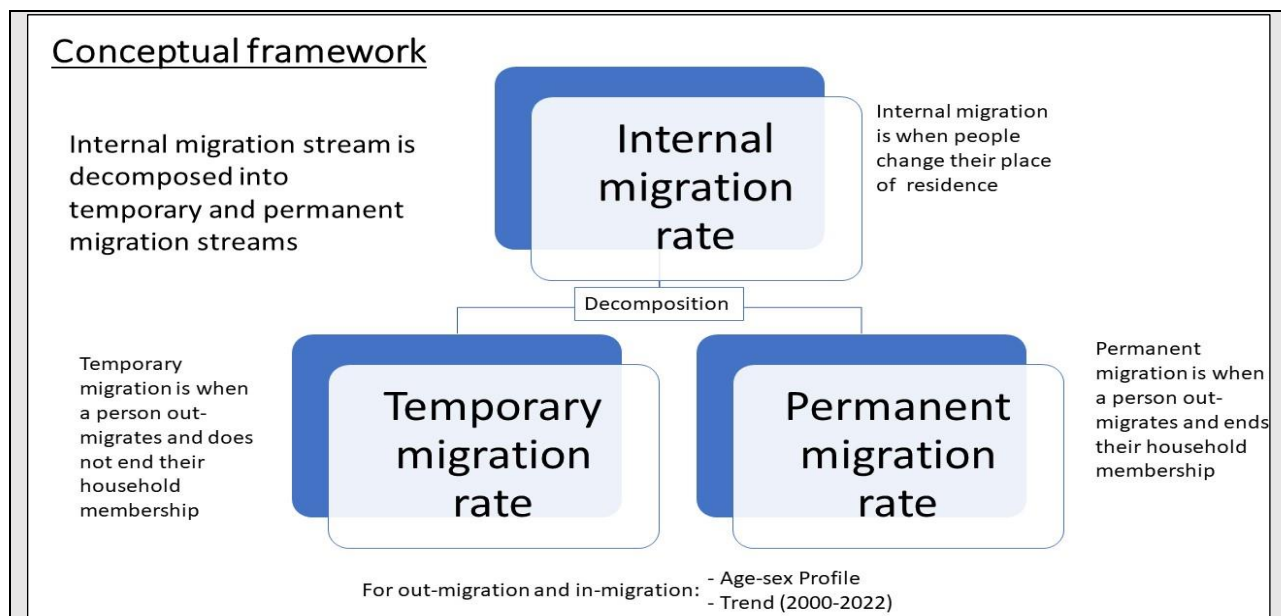


Figure 1 conceptual framework for longitudinal analysis of internal migration dynamics

To calculate migration rates, we used event history analysis to model the time that events occur, by calendar year or by age. Multiple migrations can be modelled for an individual if a person leaves, returns and leaves again. The data are arranged in a chronological sequence of demographic events by individual, with the duration known between the start and each subsequent event until the person left the population by death or permanent out-migration, or a person may still be present on the last day of the analysis which is 31/12/2022. The “survival time” or “stset” suite of commands in Stata 18 was used. The longitudinal data was analysed to obtain the incidence of migration events by age, sex, and date, for the six migration types covered, namely, in and out, for internal, temporary and permanent migration. Age-sex profiles of migration were computed using age as the temporal basis for the event history analysis. Trends in migration rates were computed using calendar time as the temporal basis for the event history. In-migration rates were computed by reversing time in the event-history as described by Bocquier. It involves starting at the right censor date and running time backwards until in-migration occurs, to obtain hazard rates of in-migration. As with out-migration, this produces daily migration hazard rates and the plots show the average migration rate at each point in time or age, smoothed over a few days.

Findings

Age-sex Profiles

Figure 2 shows the age-sex profiles for the internal, temporary, and permanent out-migration. For internal migration, the modal rate is equally high for both sexes and peaks with 19% of adults aged 22 years. At age 40 years, 10% of women and 15% of men are out-migrating; and between ages 60 and 80 years, men were still 10% likely to out-migrate and women 8%.

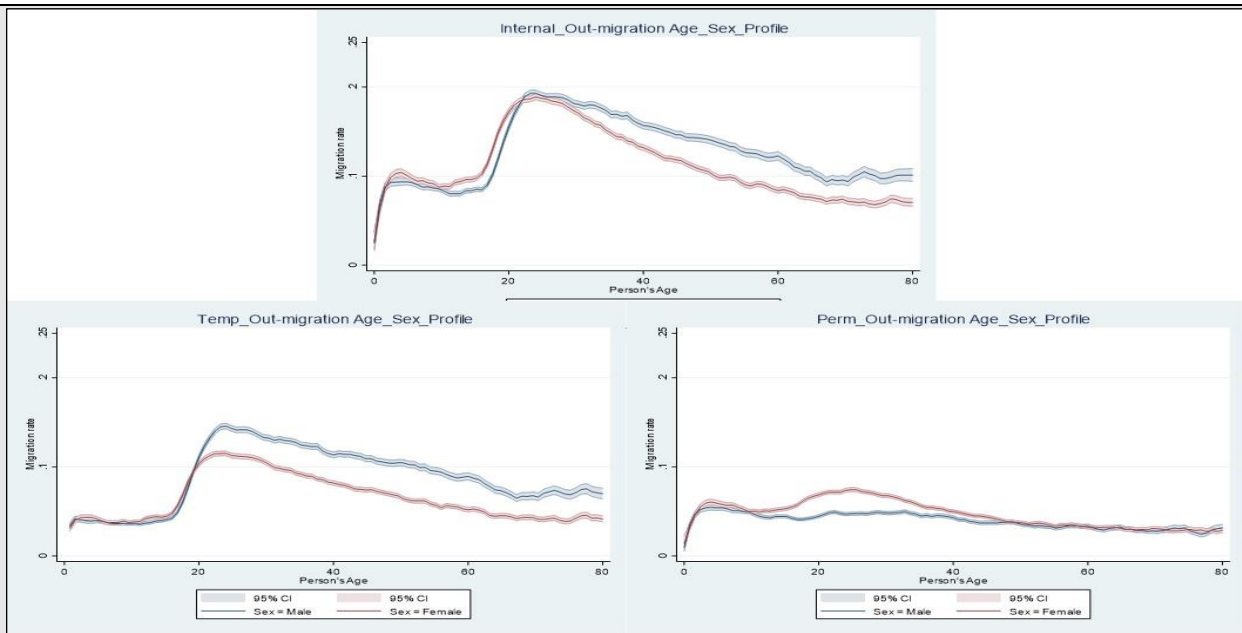


Figure 2. Out-migration rates age sex profiles – for internal, temporary and permanent migration flows

Decomposing out-migration into temporary and permanent out-migration shows that these two migration types have quite different age-sex profiles. There is a mode of 15% for male temporary migrants aged 22 but a slightly lower female temporary migration rate mode of 12% at that age. The age pattern of temporary out-migration is very similar to the internal migration rate. Older out-migrants are much more likely to be temporary out-migrants than permanent migrants.

Permanent out-migration is dominated by women aged 18–35 years and in this age group men are much less likely to migrate at a rate that remains steady at around 5% of men and boys aged 5 years and older. The age-sex profiles for women and girls shows that temporary migration is the most likely type of migration, and in addition a substantial portion of young adult women permanently migrate.

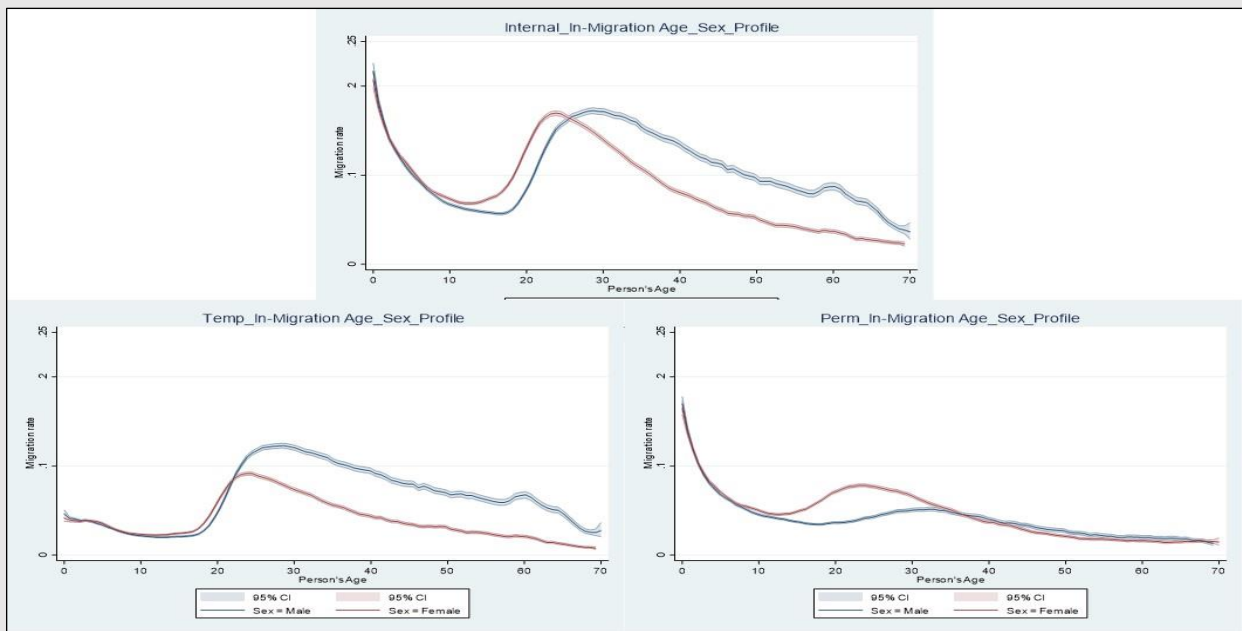


Figure 3. In-migration rates age sex profiles – for internal, temporary and permanent migration flows

Temporary in-migration should be seen as return migration after a period of temporary migration away from home. The mode of the age-sex profile for both sexes is right-shifted, but especially men, which means the age-patterns, from a life-course perspective, show young people becoming temporary migrants and returning a few years later. There is a smaller secondary mode of temporary in-migration (i.e. return migration) for men aged 60, due to retirement.

Trends

Figure 4. shows the out-migration rate trends, and Figure 5 the in-migration rate trends, for internal, temporary and permanent migration flows. For internal migration, the rates have sustained themselves at steady levels, with male and female rates following the same trends, and the male out-migration trend at a slightly higher level, until about 2018 and then the levels for men and women seemed to both increase until 2022, albeit with a dip in 2021. The in-migration was also looking stable and sustained until 2008 after which the migration rate gradually declined over time. As seen with the age-sex profiles above, the trends graph also shows that the internal migration trends are very similar to those seen for temporary migration. So, it can be reasonably induced that when changes are seen in the internal migration rates in the national census data, we can expect that for the black, rural sub-population there are changes in temporary migration rates, and not permanent migration rates, which seem to be declining in these populations.

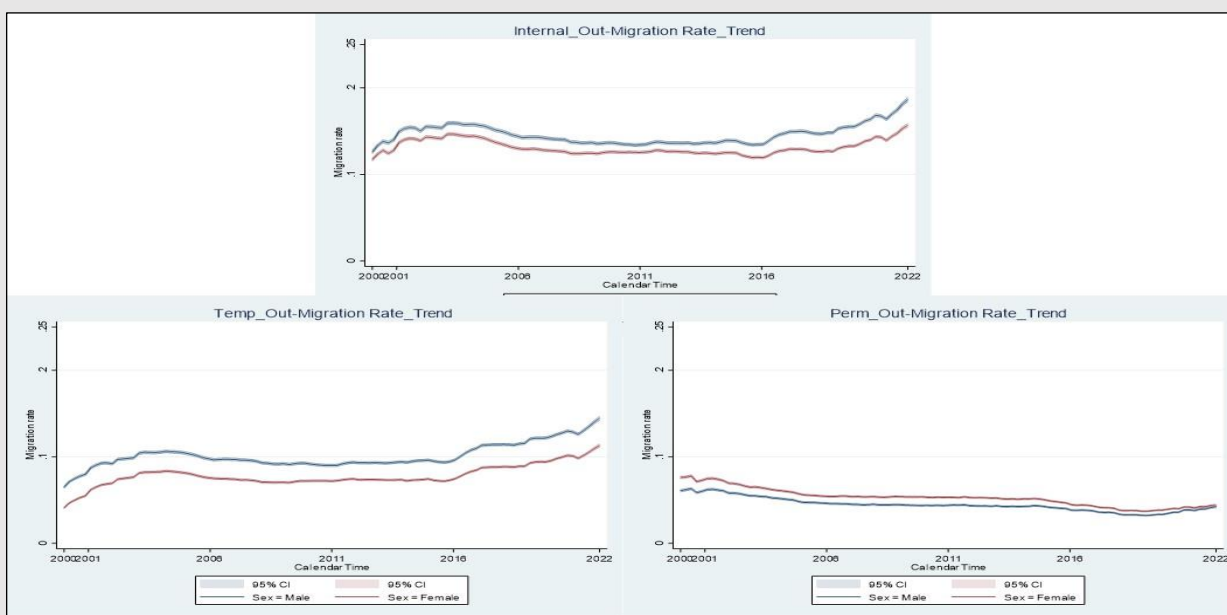


Figure 4. Out-migration rate trends – for internal, temporary and permanent migration flows

Figure 5. shows the in-migration trends and they are well matched with out-migration trends. In the case of permanent migration, they are steadily declining over time. For out-migration, the temporary migration rate increases and the permanent migration rate declines over time, while for in-migration permanent migration has been declining over the whole period and temporary in-migration, i.e. returning from temporary migration, seems to be on the decline since 2018, going the same way as permanent migration, i.e. showing a decline in the migration rate as a period-specific impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the preventative measures implemented to reduce population movement and thus transmission risk from 2019–2022. Whatever the cause, at the overview level, combining the data shows there is a trend of increasingly negative net-migration from rural areas, due to in-migration rates declining and out-migration rates, especially temporary out-migration rates increasing.

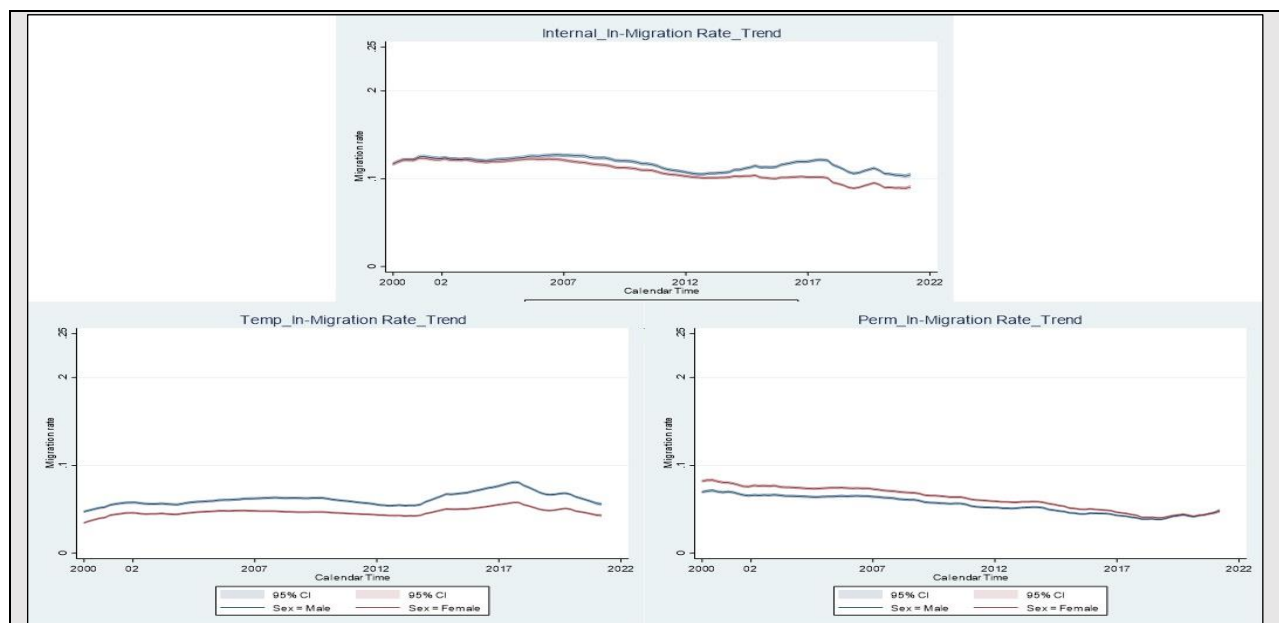


Figure 5. In-migration rate trends – for internal, temporary and permanent migration flows

Migrant Health Follow-Up Study (MHFUS) – contribution to the National Migration Profile: Internal Migration and Urbanisation

The MHFUS is a cohort study nested within the HDSS, one of the three SAPRIN rural population nodes located in the sub-district of Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga. The MHFUS was established to understand the relationships between migration, urbanisation and health in the South African setting, where the prevalence of internal, temporary migration is high and concurrent health, demographic and social transitions are underway. The MHFUS is based on a simple random sample of 3 800 18– to 40–year-olds who were part of the Agincourt surveillance population at the 2016 census. A total of 3 092 young adults were successfully enrolled in the study and 2 949 participants (95% of the enrolled cohort) were interviewed in all four completed data collection rounds that took place between 2018 and 2022. The study has collected information on the health and socioeconomic status of cohort participants through a combination of face-to-face and telephone interviews. In face-to-face interview rounds, biomarker data were collected (including anthropometric measurements and collection of dried blood spots to determine HIV status and prediabetes and diabetes risk (HbA1c)).

The MHFUS offers a longitudinal perspective of internal migration dynamics and outcomes that is exemplary of typical rural sub-district regions of the country. Through detailed data collected on participants' places of residence and movements, a set of migration trajectories spanning the period 2018 to 2022 can be determined (Figure 1). Approximately a third (34%) of the cohort lived continuously in the Agincourt rural study site between 2018 and 2022, while 35% of participants had migrated and remained living in destinations outside of the study area over this time. A further 21% of the cohort, resident in the Agincourt study site in 2018, out-migrated in a subsequent year, while 10% of the cohort moved from a destination outside of the study site back to the study site over the 4 years (return migrants)⁴. The migration trajectories highlight the fluidity of movement over a relatively short space of time. Figure 2 presents migrant's destination province at each study wave. Moves to the Gauteng Province account for the largest proportion of moves in the first two years of the study (2018 and 2019), with slightly higher proportions of moves taking place from the study site to other (surrounding) parts of Mpumalanga in 2020 and 2022. Migration in the cohort is predominantly driven by the search for employment opportunities (with further education being a lesser, but still important driver of movement). Figure 3 contrasts migrants and non-migrants (Agincourt study site residents) at each year of the study by employment status. There is stark contrast in levels of employment between migrants and non-migrants over the period with the proportion of those employed ranging from 58% to 70% among migrants and 23% to 39% among non-migrants. Levels of employment were lowest among both migrants and Agincourt residents in 2020 which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022 an economic recovery was observed, corresponding to increased employment. The economic impacts of COVID-19 were reflected in remittances to Agincourt origin households. In 2020, only

32% of migrants indicated that they had sent money or goods back to their origin households, while 53% of migrants reported remitting in 2022.

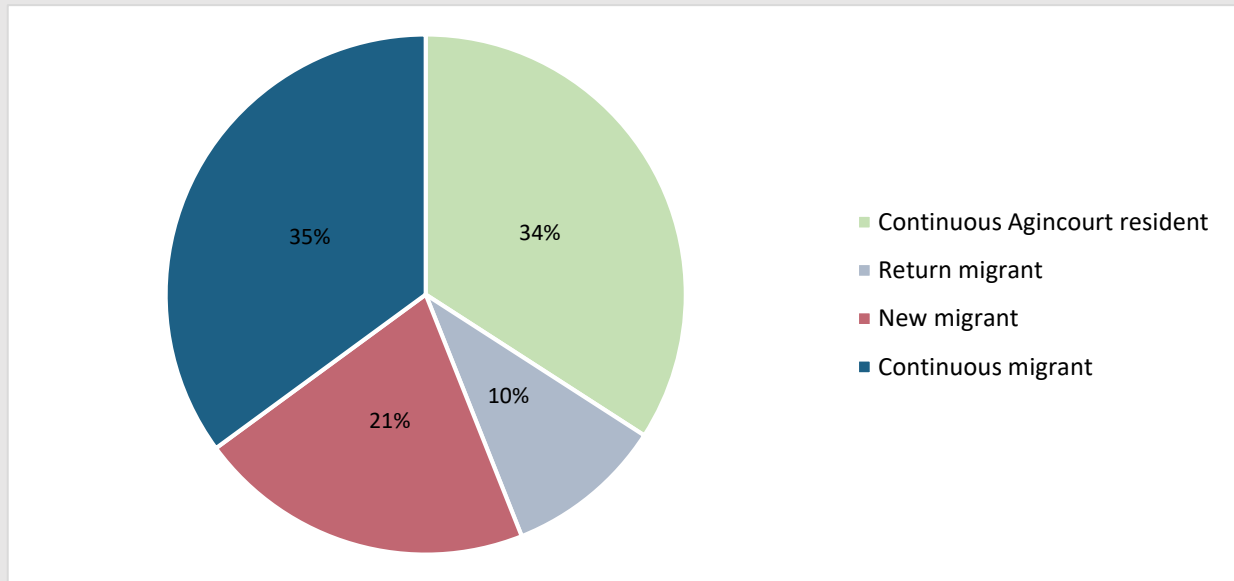


Figure 1: Migration trajectories Wave 1 – Wave 4 (n=2949)

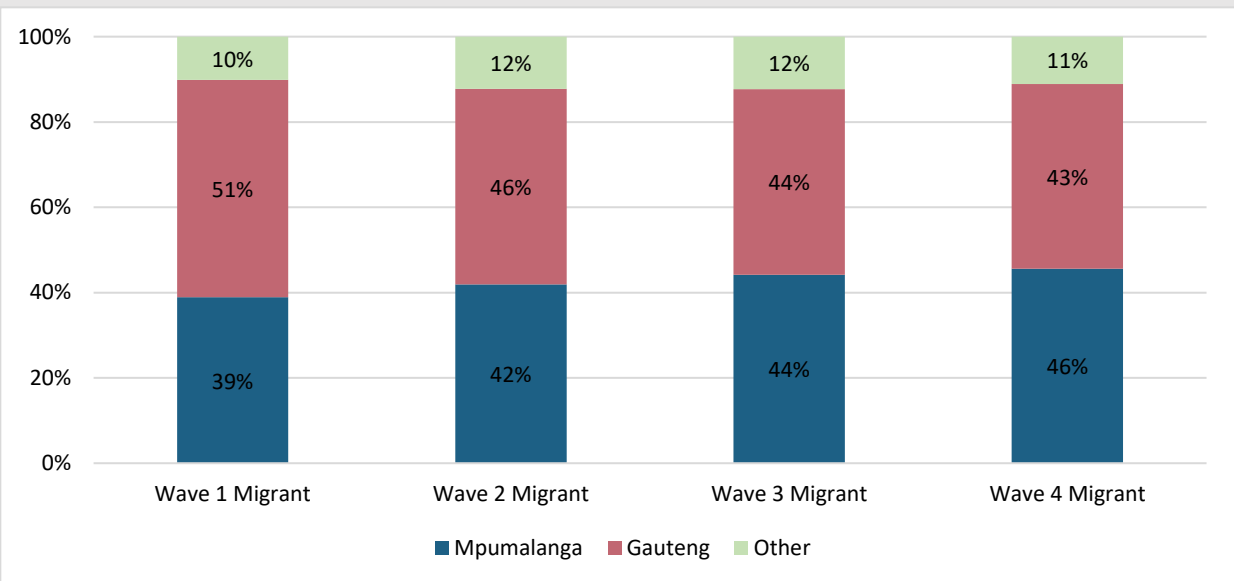


Figure 2: Migrants’ province of residence Wave 1 – Wave 4 (n=2949)

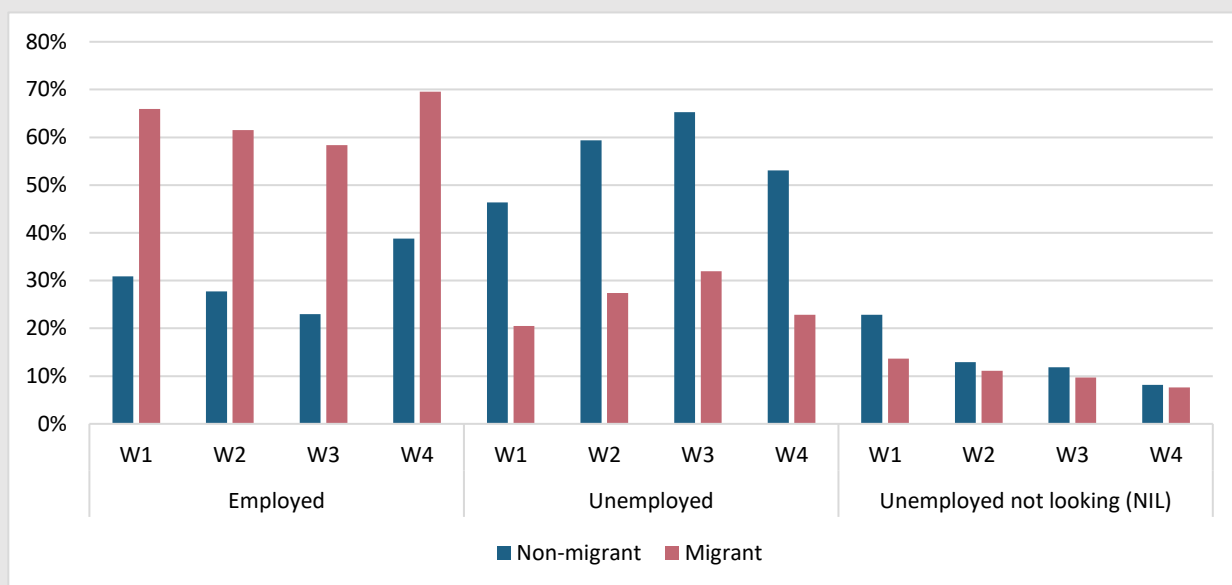


Figure 3: Employment trajectories by migrant status Wave 1 – Wave 4 (n=2949)

Conclusion

Internal migration is monitored with prospective data collection at HDSS nodes and the embedded MHFUS. These data sources highlight the high prevalence of mobility, particularly among young adults, with temporary out-migration rates increasing, and rates of permanent migration - more commonly undertaken by women – declining. The more detailed data collected through the MHFUS on socioeconomic and health measures allow for exploration of outcomes associated with migration. Internal migration is very much driven by employment opportunities and migration is a key livelihood strategy for rural households. The ability to differentiate between temporary and permanent migration is important for policy and planning, both for migrants and origin populations.

PART B: IMPACTS OF MIGRATION

B.0 Introduction

This section presents findings of the relationship between migration and socio-economic and human development outcomes in South Africa and elsewhere in the region. The information presented in the section is based on available published literature in the context of South Africa.

Many studies have shown that migration is an important influencer of social and economic development in both countries of origin and destination across the world (Bossavie & Özden, 2022; Matlou & Mutanga, 2010; Vaculovschi, 2021). Migration has both positive and negative implications for a country's economy. However, empirical measurements of the effects of migration on social, economic and environmental factors is complex and difficult (IOM, 2011). This is because there are no specific analytic tools that can be applied to quantitatively measure the impact of migration.

Migration has become an increasingly important topic in recent years, with countries like South Africa recognising the need to effectively manage immigration and integrate immigrants into their labour markets. The impact of immigration, however, is not straightforward and depends on various factors such as the country context and economic conditions. While immigrants can contribute significantly to the labour market, economic growth, and public finance, their integration and management are crucial to maximise their positive impact. South Africa's recognition of this, as reflected in its policies and the available literature on the labour market impact of immigration, is a step in the right direction. However, the lack of a comprehensive migration registration system remains one of the challenges in accurately measuring and understanding the full extent of immigration's impact, with both positive and negative implications for the economy.

B.1 Migration and human development

Migration and human development are intricately linked, with both positive and negative consequences. The United Nations defines human development as "the process of enlarging people's choices." This concept of human development was introduced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its Human Development Reports, which began in 1990 (UNDP, 2015). The UNDP emphasises that human development is not merely about the expansion of income or economic growth, but it encompasses a broader perspective. It focuses on improving people's well-being, expanding their capabilities, and enhancing their opportunities to lead lives they value and find fulfilling.

One of the most prominent aspects of the link between migration and human development is the phenomenon of brain drain, which refers to the emigration of highly skilled individuals from South Africa to other countries as well as from other countries to South Africa. The impact of brain drain in South Africa, characterised by the emigration of skilled professionals and talented individuals, poses significant challenges to the country's development and socio-economic progress. The loss of skilled labour exacerbates existing shortages in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, engineering, and information technology, can lead to reduced productivity, diminished service delivery, and compromised quality of public services (Landau & Vigneswaran,

2007). Furthermore, the departure of highly skilled individuals deprives the country of valuable human capital and intellectual capital, undermining efforts to address social inequalities, foster entrepreneurship, and drive inclusive development. To mitigate the impact of brain drain, the South African government could consider implementing comprehensive policies and strategies to attract, retain, and harness the talents of its skilled workforce, promote professional development opportunities, and create an enabling environment for innovation, creativity, and economic empowerment.

This trend has been particularly pronounced in Southern Africa, with countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi being hardest hit by this talent exodus to the North (Landau & Vigneswaran, 2007). The consequences of brain drain are far-reaching, as it deprives countries of their most valuable human capital, hindering their development prospects. Many countries in Southern Africa, including South Africa, have become the 'victims' of the brain drain of talent to the North (Landau & Vigneswaran, 2007). This underscores the need for policies that incentivise skilled workers to stay in their home countries, rather than imposing barriers to emigration.

Another dimension of the migration and human development nexus in South Africa is the issue of irregular migration. According to the White Paper on Home Affairs in South Africa, irregular migration refers to the movement of individuals across international borders in violation of immigration laws, regulations, or procedures. Irregular migration encompasses various forms of unauthorised entry, stay, or employment in a country, including undocumented migration, overstaying visas, illegal employment, and human trafficking (DHA 2017). In many cases, irregular migration is conflated with criminality, leading to a negative perception of migrants. Irregular migration status can be conflated with criminality (Crush & Frayne, 2007; Landau & Vigneswaran, 2007). This highlights the need for a more nuanced understanding of irregular migration, which considers the underlying socio-economic factors that drive people to migrate irregularly. Rather than focusing solely on border control measures, there is a need to address the root causes of irregular migration, such as poverty and lack of opportunities in the source areas.

Irregular migration in South Africa, despite its complexities and challenges, has been associated with some positive effects. Irregular migrants often contribute to the country's economy by filling labour gaps in sectors with shortages, such as agriculture, construction, and domestic work, thereby enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Additionally, irregular migrants bring diverse skills, experiences, and perspectives to the workforce, enriching the talent pool and promoting innovation and creativity.

However, migration has significant implications for poverty reduction and urban livelihood strategies. While the emerging complexity of migration to cities and increased mobility is a challenge to social, economic, and political institutions, it is essential for migrant household economies (Landau & Vigneswaran, 2007). Studies show that for most migrant-sending households, migrant remittances usually form the main source of household income in many developing countries, including South Africa (Dodson et al. 2008). However, it is worth noting that evidence shows that women tend to remit significantly lower amounts of money than male migrants (Dodson et al. 2008). This suggests that migration can be a coping mechanism for households, particularly in the face of economic challenges. However, it also underscores the need for governments to understand and support the livelihoods of urban migrants, in order to ensure the overall welfare of society.

The link between migration and human development is multifaceted and complex. While brain drain and irregular migration pose significant challenges, there are also opportunities for knowledge exchange and poverty reduction. To fully harness the potential benefits of migration, it is crucial to adopt a holistic approach that addresses the underlying drivers and consequences of migration, while also recognising the agency and contributions of migrants themselves. Efforts to address these challenges and harness the potential benefits of migration, such as remittances, skills transfer and knowledge exchange are crucial for ensuring inclusive and sustainable human development in South Africa.

B.2 Migration and economic development

The economic implications of migration in South Africa have been a subject of considerable debate. On one hand, there is evidence to suggest that immigrants have made significant contributions to the country's economy. This is because immigration has been found to have a positive impact on the labour market, particularly in terms of employment creation and skills enhancement (Biyase & Tregenna, 2016). This is further supported by a study conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), which found that migrant workers contribute significantly to the economy, both in terms of their direct contributions to GDP and their indirect contributions through the multiplier effect (OECD/ILO, 2018).

Migration has long been a significant factor in shaping the economic landscape of developing countries in Africa, including South Africa. Table B.1 shows estimated amounts of remittances received by the country during the period 2016 to 2021. Although the amounts of remittances have been fluctuating over the years, there is a slight increase in the amount of remittances received by the country from 755 million dollars to 873 million dollars. Furthermore, the outbound remittances from South Africa by migrant nationals residing in the country increased from 897 million dollars in 2016 to 1 012 million dollars in 2022.

Table B.1: Remittance inflows and outflows to and from South Africans abroad in million (US\$), 2016–2022 in million

Remittances	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Remittance inflows (US\$ million)	755	874	929	890	811	927	873
Remittance outflow (US\$ million)	897	1 033	1 098	1 052	921	1 066	1 012

Sources: World Bank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/DY.ODA.ALLD.CD?locations=ZA>;

Another notable effect of migration is the substantial contribution made by immigrants to the South African economy. It is evident that immigrants play a crucial role in the labour market. Occupational growth is mostly driven by new entrants, emphasising the significant role of immigrants in driving occupational growth (OECD/ILO, 2018). This is further supported by the breakdown of occupational growth, which reveals the contributions from different age groups, including "new immigrants (defined as those migrant-born who have entered the country in the past ten years)" (OECD/ILO, 2018). This indicates that immigrants, particularly recent arrivals, have been instrumental in driving economic growth and filling labour market gaps.

Moreover, the economic contributions of immigrants extend beyond the labour market. The contribution is also noticed in terms of the positive impact of immigrants on entrepreneurship and innovation. "Immigrants are more likely to be entrepreneurs than the native-born population," underscoring the entrepreneurial spirit and drive that immigrants bring to the country (OECD/ILO, 2018). This entrepreneurial activity not only creates job opportunities but also fosters innovation and economic dynamism.

However, it is important to acknowledge that migration also poses challenges and strains on the South African economy. A cost-benefit analysis of immigration policing in Gauteng sheds light on the costs associated with immigration policing. It states, "The cost of immigration policing in Gauteng is estimated to be R1,1 billion per annum," (Vigneswaran, 2020). This highlights the financial burden imposed by immigration control measures. This suggests that while immigration brings economic benefits, there are also costs associated with managing and regulating migration.

Migration has had a profound impact on the economic development of South Africa. Immigrants have played a pivotal role in driving occupational growth, filling labour market gaps, and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. However, it is crucial to strike a balance between harnessing the economic benefits of migration and addressing the challenges and costs associated with it.

B.3 Migration, employment and the labour market

Understanding the relationship between migration, employment and the labour market in South Africa is critical for addressing the economic, social, and political challenges posed by migration. This information helps policymakers create effective labour market policies, promote inclusivity, and maximise the contributions of migrants to the South African economy while ensuring that the rights and opportunities of all workers are protected. However, unavailability of adequate data to measure the impact of migration in more detail could affect appropriate design of interventions to address the labour needs of immigrants in South Africa.

Migration has had a significant impact on employment and the labour market in South Africa. The country has experienced a substantial increase in immigration, with a rise of approximately 45% over the period 1996 to 2007 (Biavaschi et al. 2018). The growing number and proportion of African immigrants suggest the beginning of a skills brain drain to South Africa, which could accelerate further in the future. This suggests that immigrants, particularly from African countries, are bringing valuable skills to the labour market. Furthermore, it is evident that migration has brought in a highly skilled labour force, potentially filling gaps in the country's labour market and contributing to economic growth. The South African government has recognised this potential, shifting its policy stance to view the inflow of migrant workers, especially skilled ones, as a tool for economic development (Biavaschi et al. 2018).

However, the impact of migration on the labour market is not uniformly positive. While immigrants bring skills and fill certain labour market gaps, their presence can also have implications for native workers. Increased immigration has a negative and significant effect on natives' employment rates at both the district and national levels (Biavaschi et al. 2018). The presence of immigrants may lead to a displacement of native workers, particularly in certain regions. Furthermore, the influx of immigrants may lead to a "skills brain drain" from South Africa, potentially affecting the employment prospects of citizens who may decide to look for employment opportunities outside the country (OECD/ILO, 2018).

B.4 Migration and social development

Migration has been documented to influence the social development of both migrants and citizens of hosting countries in many African countries. The link between migration and social development is influenced by factors such as economic conditions, policies, and the social and cultural context in both source and destination countries (Bakewell, 2009). Properly managed migration can contribute positively to social development, but it also requires effective policies and support systems to address potential challenges and maximise the benefits for both migrants and host societies. In South Africa, migration has played a significant role in shaping the social development of migrants and citizens. This is evident in various aspects, including the impact on population dynamics, the influence on urbanisation, and the correlation between migration and socio-economic characteristics (Statistics South Africa, 2015).

Migration has played a pivotal role in the urbanisation process in South Africa. The census findings indicate that metropolitan areas are the most populated and significant origin and destination locations of internal migrants. This suggests a strong urban ward movement, which is further supported by the prominence of urbanisation (Statistics South Africa, 2015). Furthermore, migration has been closely linked to various socio-economic characteristics in South Africa. The statistics highlight the relationship between the level of education and income group, with 2 out of 5 immigrants completing secondary school education or higher in 2011 (Statistics South Africa, 2015).

Migration has also had a profound impact on the social development of South Africa, shaping the nation's identity and presenting both opportunities and challenges. The National Action Plan (NAP) to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance recognises the need for a collective commitment to break free from the divisions and discrimination of the past (DoJ&CD, 2022). This commitment is crucial in fostering a society that values diversity and ensures the well-being of all its residents. One of the key interventions identified in the NAP is the establishment of a "Framework for virtual repository of data collection of disaggregated statistical data for the measurement of racism, racial discrimination" (DoJ&CD, 2022). This highlights the importance of data-driven policies and interventions to address the social implications of migration. By collecting and analysing disaggregated data, policymakers can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by different migrant groups and develop targeted strategies to address them.

Furthermore, the NAP emphasises the significance of community-based campaigns and dialogues in promoting social cohesion and addressing discrimination. The report mentions the implementation of a joint program to foster dialogues in different communities across South Africa (DoJ&CD, 2022). This approach recognises the power of dialogue in breaking down stereotypes, fostering empathy, and building bridges between different migrants and communities in the host countries.

B.5 Migration and health

The countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have long recognised the various challenges faced by individual countries in the region in terms of meeting the health needs of their populations and that of migrants. The main health issues of the broader population are HIV/AIDS and other STIs, respiratory infections and tuberculosis, cardiovascular diseases, maternal and neonatal diseases as well as consequences of self-harm and violence (IHME, 2020e). With 7,1 million people living with HIV constituting 18,9% of adults between 15 years and 49 years old, the country has the biggest HIV epidemic in the world (USAID, 2020). Since there are no reliable statistics on stocks of migrants and refugees, there is also not much data on the well-being or health issues of migrants in irregular situations (Migration Data Portal, 2020).

In recent years, there has been a global consensus among public health and migration specialists, as well as governments, that more effort is needed to better understand the relationship between migration and health at national and sub-national levels. South Africa has participated and adopted several key international initiatives to promote and facilitate the integration of migrants and refugees into national policies. These include the 2008 World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 61.17 on the health of migrants, the 2017 WHA Resolution 70.15 promoting the health of refugees and migrants, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the global action plan of the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote the health of refugees and migrants (2019–2023), the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), the global consultations on migration and health in 2010, 2017 and 2023, and the Declaration of the High-Level Meetings on Universal Health Coverage in 2019 and 2023.

The relationship between migration and health has been well documented in existing literature. Migration has been described as a potential contributor to the spread of diseases like HIV, with migration destinations acting as hotspots for transmission (Lurie & Williams, 2014). Furthermore, migrants usually face challenges in accessing healthcare in migrant countries (Walls et al. 2015). This underscores the need for comprehensive responses that address the health needs of migrants and consider the impact of migration on both urban and rural areas in southern Africa countries.

In the context of South Africa, the relationship between migration and health is particularly intricate, influenced by historical, social, and economic factors. One of the key findings from existing analysis is the notion of a "healthy migration" being beneficial for development (Vearey et al. 2018, 2021). However, this positive health outcome is not always guaranteed, since "migration is rarely managed in a healthy way" (Vearey et al. 2018). This suggests that while migration has the potential to improve the health of individuals, it is often hindered by various challenges and barriers such as access to quality healthcare.

Studies show that migrants' rights to access health care are routinely denied. Integrating migrants and refugees into health policies across the world is a complex and multifaceted issue that involves technical, legal, ethical, and political challenges. Firstly, there is a lack of reliable and comparable data on their health status, needs, and access across countries and regions (Rampazzo et al. 2023). The lack of complete data on migrants and refugees restricts the ability to supervise and tackle the health problems and challenges faced by this vulnerable group, and to create policies and interventions that are based on evidence and are accommodating and comprehensive.

One such challenge is the "urban health penalty" experienced by migrants, both internal and cross-border, in cities. This penalty refers to the "inability of migrants to access positive determinants of health in the urban cities" (Vearey et al. 2018). This indicates that the living and working conditions in urban areas, where migrants often settle, can have a detrimental effect on their health.

Moreover, the study by Ginsburg et al. (2021) highlights the complexity of the relationship between migration and health. The study indicates that the health status of migrants may differ from that of non-migrants prior to migrating, at the time of migration, and thereafter, making it challenging to disentangle the selection effects and direct effects of migration. This suggests that the health outcomes of migrants cannot be solely attributed to the act of migration itself, but are influenced by a multitude of factors.

Although the issue of migration and health is of utmost importance in the sustainable development agenda, where the benefits of migration can only be sustained where migrants and their communities remain healthy, there is an inadequate response to address the health needs of migrants in South Africa (Vearey et al. 2018). Furthermore, appropriate responses to population movements and health are lacking in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This highlights a gap in the health system's ability to effectively address the health needs of migrants, despite the recognition of migration as a central determinant of health.

B.6 Migration and the environment

Migration has a profound impact on the environment in South Africa, with both positive and negative consequences. On one hand, the government and various organisations have made efforts to protect the rights of migrants, particularly asylum seekers and refugees. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa outlines the "legal protection and provision for Universal Human Rights (UHR) in South Africa, such as ensuring equality and human dignity, freedom and security, no subjection to servitude, slavery and forced labour, freedom of belief and freedom of expression and opinion" (Ghebreyohannes, 2014).

On the positive side, migration can contribute to the development of "environmental surplus" in certain areas (Borderon et al, 2019). For instance, migrants may bring new skills, knowledge, and resources that can enhance local capacities for environmental management and conservation. This aligns with the notion that migration can be a form of "environmental mobility" where individuals move to areas with better environmental conditions (Borderon et al. 2019).

However, it is important to acknowledge that migration can also exert negative pressures on the environment. The influx of migrants into urban areas, for example, can lead to increased demand for housing, infrastructure, and natural resources, which can strain local ecosystems and exacerbate environmental degradation (Borderon et al. 2019). Additionally, the expansion of agricultural activities driven by migration can contribute to deforestation, soil erosion, and water pollution (Borderon et al. 2019).

Climate change and its impact on the environment have emerged as significant push factors for migration, particularly in most African countries already grappling with resource insecurities and socio-economic challenges. The interplay between climate change and migration is a complex phenomenon, influenced by a range of demographic, socio-economic, geographic, and environmental factors. While climate change can exacerbate existing conflicts and instabilities, it does not systematically generate mass migration from Africa to other continents, as highlighted by the results of a review on migration influenced by climate change in African countries (Borderon et al. 2019).

In Southern Africa, population growth and climate change have intensified resource insecurities, leading to both intra- and inter-migration. A systematic review of literature in the region emphasised the need for adaptation strategies to ensure water and food security, and build resilience in the face of accelerated migration.

The impact of climate change on migration is not limited to resource insecurities alone. In South Africa, for instance, the effects of increased migration – including climate-induced migration – have been detrimental to the country's political, economic, and social landscape.

It is important to note that while climate change can be a significant push factor for migration, it is not the sole driver. Other factors such as political stability, economic conditions, and social dynamics also play a crucial role. The interdependence between climate change and migration is a nuanced and multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive understanding and approach (Mpandeli et al. 2020).

The Qualitative Report on Findings and Recommendation on the National Assessment on the Linkages between Migration and Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought (DLDD), Climate Change and other Environmental Factors by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment delves into the intricate linkages between migration and various environmental factors like desertification, land degradation, drought, and climate change across different provinces in South Africa. It underscores how these factors intersect to influence migration patterns, especially among vulnerable communities reliant on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods.

In the Northern Cape, severe drought significantly impacts crop production, water availability, and livestock survival. Farmers struggle due to decreased yields and increased livestock mortality, compelling some individuals, particularly the youth, to migrate to urban areas for job opportunities. Similar challenges exist in Limpopo, where soil erosion threatens water supply and agricultural activities, potentially leading to migration as an adaptive measure.

The Free State province experiences varying degrees of soil degradation and land issues, impacting food security and livelihoods. Factors such as overgrazing, poor land management, and invasive plant species exacerbate the challenges. Additionally, inadequate infrastructure and governance further worsens land degradation issues.

Throughout the provinces, water scarcity and poor agricultural yields drive migration, especially among younger individuals seeking better income sources. Changes in land use and cover due to population growth, mining activities, and climate change intensify environmental degradation, prompting migrations to urban centres for economic opportunities.

Despite community efforts to manage soil erosion using local resources like stones and gabion structures, the pervasive challenges posed by climate-related hazards continue to impact migration trends. Overall, while the connection between environmental hazards and migration is evident, assigning direct causality remains complex due to the intertwined nature of these factors.

PART C: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON DATA COLLECTION

C.1 Key findings

Migration dynamics: The report delves into the intricate trends characterising South Africa's migration landscape, showcasing a dynamic ebb and flow in various categories. Temporary residence permits and transit migration experienced fluctuations over the past decade, notably peaking in 2012 and 2015, respectively. However, pandemic-related restrictions resulted in substantial declines in these figures, with a partial rebound observed in 2022. Short-term visits, crucial for understanding tourist or business-related movements, demonstrated consistent growth until 2019 before facing significant declines in 2020 and 2021. This nuanced data indicate the susceptibility of migration to external factors, reflecting the impact of global events on migratory patterns.

Immigration trends: Within the immigrant community, the report emphasises demographic shifts, notably the dominance of the black African population group and the emergence of Zimbabwe as a leading source country. These migrants often gravitate towards Gauteng, a prominent hub for immigrant settlements. Moreover, there is a noticeable rise in migrant-born individuals entering the workforce, indicating the evolving role of migrants in contributing to South Africa's labour market. This phenomenon underscores the changing dynamics within employment sectors, potentially influencing economic growth and workforce diversity.

Employment dynamics: The intricate analysis of employment patterns among migrants reveals intriguing insights into their occupational preferences and distribution across different provinces. The report highlights the significance of provinces like Gauteng and the Western Cape in attracting a substantial number of employed migrants. However, it is essential to note the variations in unemployment rates across regions, indicating the diverse challenges faced by migrants seeking employment opportunities.

Education and refugees: The examination of migration data reveal substantial trends in education-related migration, with Zimbabwe consistently sending students to South Africa for academic pursuits. Meanwhile, refugee numbers exhibit volatility over time, demonstrating the varying origins and sex ratios among asylum seekers and refugees. These trends underscore the diverse reasons prompting migration and the nuanced challenges faced by different migrant groups.

Housing and utilities: A pivotal aspect of the report focuses on housing and utility trends among immigrant households. Both South African-born and immigrant families increasingly opt for formal housing arrangements, with a significant shift towards rental occupancy and property ownership. These choices mirror advancements in housing access and the gradual transition away from traditional or informal dwellings. Improvements in utilities like piped water access and electricity usage highlight progress, but also reveal persisting challenges in waste management.

Emigration and return migration: The report analyses the dynamics of South African citizens residing abroad and those returning. It notes consistent growth in emigration among South African citizens, especially towards destinations like the United Kingdom, Australia, and the USA. Conversely, return migration exhibits fluctuations in sex distribution, demographic patterns, and provincial preferences. These patterns provide nuanced insights into the factors influencing migration decisions and potential changes in returnee preferences over time.

Irregular migration: A challenging aspect to quantify due to data limitations, irregular migration receives attention through insights from administrative sources.

Safety and security: The report highlights the presence of immigrant inmates in the prison system and the varying rates of deportations over the years. Additionally, it notes fluctuations in reported crime cases involving nationals from neighbouring countries, shedding light on the intricate relationship between irregular migration and law enforcement.

Impacts: Migration's impact on diverse facets like human development, economics, social identity, health, and the environment is emphasised.

Need for nuanced strategies: Given the intricate nature of migration in South Africa, the report underscores the necessity for nuanced, inclusive strategies in managing migration dynamics. These strategies must strike a balance between harnessing the benefits of migration, such as economic growth and cultural diversity, while effectively addressing the challenges posed by irregular migration, social integration, and resource distribution. Achieving comprehensive and inclusive development demands an approach that acknowledges the multifaceted nature of migration and its impact on various societal domains.

C.2 Recommendations on improving migration statistics and the overall evidence base

Regular population surveys: Conduct regular population surveys that specifically focus on migration patterns, reasons for migration, and socio-economic characteristics of migrants. These surveys should encompass both documented and undocumented migrants.

Cross-agency collaboration: Foster collaboration among government agencies, international organisations, academic institutions, and NGOs to share data and resources. This collaboration can provide a more holistic view of migration patterns and challenges.

Capacity building: Invest in training and capacity building for officials involved in data collection and analysis. This ensures a better understanding of migration dynamics and improves the quality of data collected.

Utilise administrative data: Integrate data from various administrative sources, such as border control agencies, health services, and education departments, to create a more comprehensive picture of migration patterns.

Public awareness campaigns: Conduct public awareness campaigns to encourage migrants, both documented and undocumented, to participate in data collection efforts. Building trust within migrant communities is crucial for obtaining accurate data.

Invest in research: Allocate resources to support research on migration trends, impacts on the economy, social dynamics, and policy effectiveness. This research can inform evidence-based policymaking.

Evidence-based decision-making: Ensure that migration statistics and evidence are integrated into policy formulation across various sectors such as health, education, labour, and social welfare.

Regular assessment and review: Continuously assess the effectiveness of data collection methods and policies regarding migration statistics. Regular reviews help in identifying gaps and improving strategies over time.

International collaboration: Engage in international collaborations and partnerships with neighbouring countries and international organisations to understand regional migration patterns and align efforts for more accurate data.

Transparency and accountability: Maintain transparency in data collection methodologies and reporting. Establish mechanisms for accountability to ensure the accuracy and reliability of migration statistics.

Disaggregation of data: Disaggregation is a key consideration and data producers are encouraged to disaggregate data by at least age and sex on all indicators being produced to identify the most vulnerable groups in key age groups and amongst women. It is hoped that by the time a new Migration Profile Report is conducted, possibly in 2027, we may have more data producers on board, with higher levels of disaggregation and better quality in terms of its collection and coverage.

Government departments' coordination and cooperation: The compilation of South Africa's first Migration Profile Report is but the first stop on a longer journey. The need to ensure that migration measurement is an all of government phenomenon is relevant now more than ever. The collation of migration data across various government sectors needs to be done as a priority in a manner that enhances its quality, covers more content areas, and makes such data available to be shared with the national statistics office. In this regard, co-ordination and co-operation amongst actors is important. Participation in the National Migration and Urbanisation Forum and in bilateral with Statistics South Africa are important in order to achieve these objectives. Further to achieve these objectives is also the need to invest significantly in the development of such data production systems. Administrative data, particularly in the field of migration, are critical given the various challenges in capturing data from migrants through other means. The forum will also be the vehicle through which global and regional co-ordination and consultation around indicators and data frameworks will take place.

Use of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Consideration of Big Data and AI should certainly be brought on board to gain an understanding of migration from a different perspective. Research and partnerships are required in this regard.

C.3 Recommendations from the Round Table Discussion on Strengthening the Data Mechanism for Evidence-based Migration Governance and Management in the SADC region

It is imperative to underscore that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States urgently require timely, dependable, accessible, and comparable data concerning international migration. This need arises from the quest to effectively manage migration and safeguard the rights of migrants. However, a dearth of migration data, or the underutilisation thereof, often gives rise to misconceptions regarding the scale of migration and its implications in the SADC region. Moreover, less availability of robust data can result in ill-conceived policies and interventions, significantly hindering the identification and assistance of migrants facing vulnerability.

Although the issue of inadequate migration data in the region has been acknowledged for several years, with some level of progress made through the SADC Harmonization Roadmap, development of guidelines as well as harmonised indicators for census, household and administrative data collection, consensus among Member States on how to address data deficiencies and enhance data availability remains elusive. The round table discussion on "Strengthening Data Mechanisms for Evidence-based Migration Governance and Management in the SADC Region" demonstrates IOM's commitment to fostering dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders to enhance migration governance and management.

Key recommendations from the round table discussion include:

Integration of migration modules: Member States are advised to incorporate essential migration modules and indicators into household surveys and censuses, enabling data disaggregation relevant to migration. Collaboration with partners for technical assistance and capacity development on methodology, sampling, and survey weighting is encouraged.

Harnessing administrative data: Acknowledging the integration of migration modules and indicators into administrative data sources in certain Member States, and further exploration of administrative sources for capturing migration-relevant indicators are recommended.

Data collection in high mobility corridors: Enhanced data collection in high mobility corridors, such as the Southern Route, to manage harmonised cross-border data on mixed migration flows and vulnerable migrant populations (including women, disabled individuals, children, and the youth). This should include the sharing and utilisation of alternative data sources, such as Flow Monitoring data, with relevant Member States.

Alignment with international and regional frameworks: Encouragement for Member States to actively align with and contribute to international and regional frameworks, protocols, and recommendations related to migration data. This alignment will foster more harmonised migration data concepts, definitions, methodologies, and data management, analysis, and dissemination mechanisms.

Establishment of national coordination mechanisms: Member States are urged to establish or strengthen National Steering Committees or Technical Working Groups on migration to bolster migration management and enhance national statistical systems. SADC can provide support in conceptualisation and operationalisation in line with the SADC Harmonization Process.

Appointment of focal points: The nomination of dedicated focal points is recommended to ensure continuity of initiatives within Member States. These focal points will participate in multidisciplinary activities on migration and disseminate information within coordination mechanisms.

Regional Technical Working Group: Encouragement for Member States to consider operationalising the Regional Technical Working Group on migration data, fostering coordination and information sharing among Member States, SADC, and partners.

Enhancing data comparability: Member States are encouraged to improve the availability of migration data from various sources, making them more comparable, reliable, and consistent. This will facilitate evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation with technical guidance and support from partners.

Annexure I: Data sources

Data name	Data type	Responsible agency
Census 1996	Census	Statistics South Africa
Census 2001	Census	Statistics South Africa
Census 2011	Census	Statistics South Africa
Census 2022	Census	Statistics South Africa
Documented immigrants in SA (2011-2015)	Report	Statistics South Africa
Tourism report 2009-2022	Report	Statistics South Africa
Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2012	Household survey	Statistics South Africa
Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2017	Household survey	Statistics South Africa
Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2022	Household survey	Statistics South Africa
UIF Siyaya database CEE Annual Report	Administrative data	Department of Labour and Employment
LURITS	Administrative data	Department of Basic Education
HEMIS	Administrative data	Department of Higher Education and Training
Human Control Movement system	Administrative data	Department of Home Affairs
Data Portal	International	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
SOCPEN	Administrative data	SASSA
Data Portal	UN database	UNDESA
Data Portal	UN database	UNESCO
Data Portal	UN database	UNHCR
Admin register	Administrative data	Department of Social Development
Crime statistics	Official statistics	SAPS Crime Statistics
Data from courts	Administrative data	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
KNOMAD	WB database	World Bank

Annexure II: Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group (TWG)

The Technical Working Group (TWG) for the 2023 Migration Profile Report for the Republic of South Africa is led by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) and with technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The TWG members have been drawn from relevant government and non-government departments, academia and civil society organisations. The drafting of the Migration Profile Report was led by the Consultant with technical support from the members of the Technical Working Group.

Name	Organisation
Diego Iturralde	Statistics South Africa
Itani Ntsieni	Statistics South Africa
Moses Choeru	Statistics South Africa
Lebohang Molapo	Statistics South Africa
Dikago Puoeng	Statistics South Africa
Job Mothiba	Statistics South Africa
Vivian Marapjane	Statistics South Africa
Dorothy Bokaba	Statistics South Africa
Tshwaro Gae	Statistics South Africa
Kwena Marevhula	Statistics South Africa
Xoliswa Ndamase	Statistics South Africa
Tebogo Phokanoka	Department of Home Affairs
Lulamile Mtebeni	The Presidency
Gontse Sethokgo	The Presidency
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