

# ***Contemporary South African Urbanisation Dynamics***

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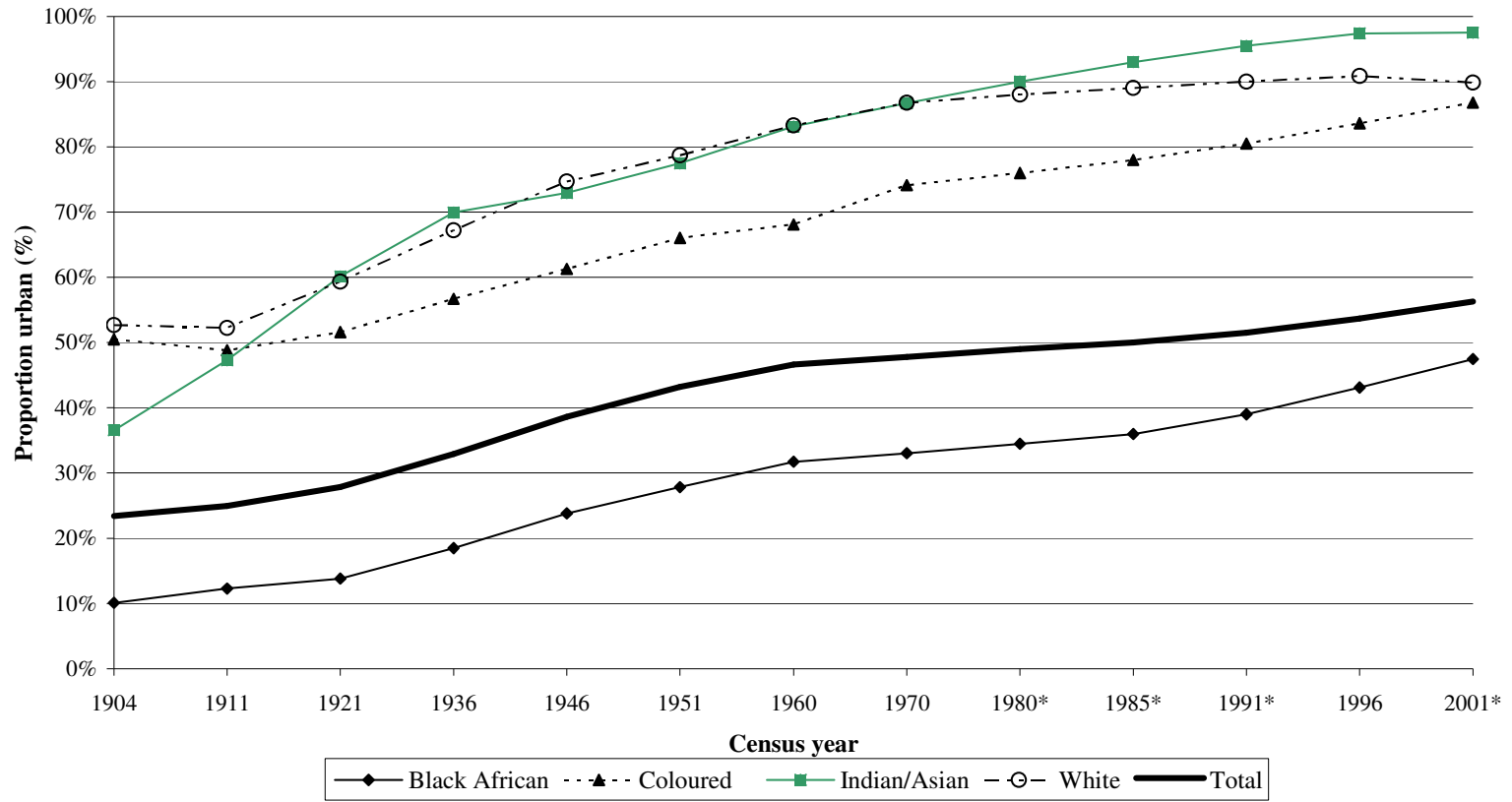
# Introduction

- Examines post-apartheid urbanisation
- Overview of trends
- Main focus on underlying dynamics
- Difficulties with data

# Urbanisation and Migration Trends

- Rising levels of urbanisation: 57.1% in 2001 (SSA definitions)
- But on density could be 68.5%
- Growth rate of 9 major cities is declining, but some variations:
  - 3.45% pa 1946-70
  - 3.09% pa 1970-1996
  - 2.8% pa 1996-2001
  - 2.45% pa 2001-7

**Figure 2**  
**South Africa's historical urbanisation trends (1904-2001\*)**



# Urbanisation and Migration Trends: 1996-2001

- Movement to areas experiencing growth (biggest cities, some secondary cities)
- Variable economic and population growth outside largest cities
- Regional shift
- Metros, cities and large towns overall as net migrant attractors
- Small towns attract migrants, but they move on

# Urbanisation and Migration Trends: 1996-2001

- Not all movement follows growth
  - Rural-rural
  - Displacement from rural areas
  - Housing in small towns without economic activity
  - Areas of unemployment and poor services don't generate higher out-migration

# Post – 2001 trends

- All post-2001 figures based on projections and estimates
- 2007 Community Survey (around 275 000)
  - municipal figures are estimates
  - Issues with weighting
- Most data says migration concentrated on Gauteng, and to a lesser extent W.Cape
- Different numbers/patterns from various data sets, but agreement on declining urban growth rates

# Rural Contexts

- Large scale movement of black people off commercial farms since 1994
  - Wegerif et al: 2.4m displaced?
  - 67% to urban areas
  - But location is less about employment than social networks, access to land
  - Some focus on small towns – overstretching capacities/services

# Rural Contexts

- Farm evictions linked to pressures on commercial agriculture
  - Decline/casualisation of employment
  - Deregulation and exposure to global markets
  - New technologies and mechanisation
  - Farm consolidation

And response to tenure laws, fear of crime, housing availability

# Rural contexts

- Land reform not an alternative
  - Scale limited (4.3% of land by 2004, vs target of 30% by 2014)
  - not benefitting farm workers
  - Not creating expected livelihoods – largely subsistence
  - Inadequate land, poor capacity, lack of post-settlement support

# Rural Contexts

- Farming in former homeland areas is mainly subsistence:
  - Main income for 1.1% of households
  - Supplementary income for 2.8%
  - Part of food security but additional source of food for 88.3%
  - Dependence on grants/remittances
  - Some successes with linking small producers to markets, but limited in scale
- Decline of remittances and commuting income
- ‘Displaced urban settlements’?

# Circular migration

- Decline of traditional migrant labour
- But new forms of circular and fragmented migration
- Reflects levels of rural security and insecure labour markets
- Most migrants are poor
- But poorest aren't mobile – become trapped in places with limited opportunities for survival

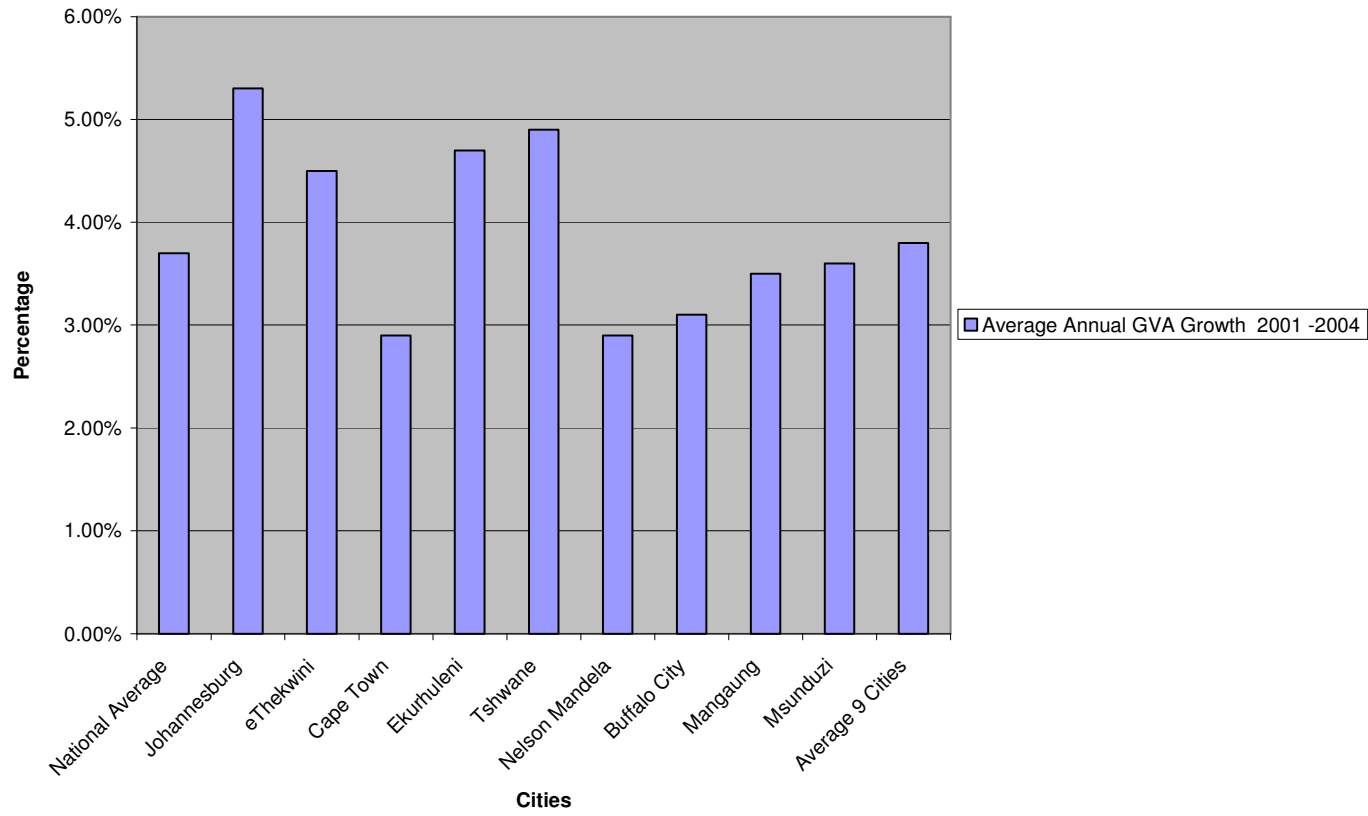
# International migration

- Has become significant – but no good figures : many estimates
- 2007 Community survey pegs ‘foreign born’ at 2,7% , about half in Gauteng
- Links to:
  - declining economic conditions in home countries
  - Political crises and civil war
  - SA’s dominant economic position

# Urban Contexts

- SA's economy is very concentrated on major cities
  - 63% GVA in 9 major cities and 50% employment
  - Gauteng most dominant and growing fastest
  - Lower unemployment and poverty – but deep poverty pockets
  - Employment increasingly for skilled
  - Some decentralisation 1970s-90s, but recentralisation since
  - Reflects growth of tertiary sector, particularly finance and commerce,
  - and marginalisation of labour intensive industries in context of economic openness

Average Annual GVA Growth 2001 -2004



# Declining household sizes

- Declining household sizes and household splits
  - Household size dropped from 4.5 1996 to 3.9 2001
  - Dropping further?
  - Youth migrating on their own
  - ‘decompression’ and migration within the city
  - People from formal housing leaking into informal settlement
- Significant poverty emerges in cities
- more significant to expansion of cities and pressures than migration?

# Conclusion

- Major metropolitan areas and some rapidly growing secondary cities are main focus of migration and growth
- Cities may have less capacity to cope than needed, but far more than smaller towns, and rural areas
- More successful in providing infrastructure and services
- But bulk infrastructure is reaching limits and is insufficiently maintained
- Also deal with pressures associated with a growth middle class in context where public transport and the public realm is poorly developed