

Press Release

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South African Institute of Race Relations
The power of ideas

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Pupils also seek greener pastures

A combined total of 153 392 school-aged children between 6 and 18 left the Eastern Cape, the Free State, Limpopo, and the North West between 2001 and 2007, but only 90 998 moved into those provinces, according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR).

The *Survey* is the annual yearbook on all social, economic, and political aspects of South Africa that the IRR has been publishing since 1946.

The Eastern Cape had total school-age out-migration of 55 963. Only 24 045 school-age migrants moved to the province, resulting in net out-migration (where more six to 18 year-olds left the province than moved in) of 31 918, the highest in the country.

Limpopo saw 46 114 school-age migrants leave and 20 657 move to the province, leaving net out-migration of 25 457.

The Free State and the North West experienced net out-migration of 1 657 and 3 362 respectively.

The data, sourced from an answer by the minister of basic education to a parliamentary query, also revealed that Gauteng and the Western Cape were the preferred destinations of school children as they experienced net in-migration of 64 313 and 22 268 respectively.

Thuthukani Ndebele, a researcher at the IRR, said, 'Collectively, the number of pupils attending public schools in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo declined by more than 400 000 between 2000 and 2012'.

'The Eastern Cape and Limpopo in particular, have limited resources and poor infrastructure, resulting in migrants searching for better educational opportunities in provinces such as Gauteng and the Western Cape, whose resources can be stretched by continued influxes', Mr Ndebele said.

Ends
