

FreeFACTS

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Vital to get South Africa's cities working

Cities are the intellectual, economic, and innovation hubs in countries across the world, and South Africa is no different.

About 42% of South Africans live in our eight metropolitan areas (Nelson Mandela Bay, Buffalo City, Mangaung, Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Cape Town, and eThekweni) and these eight cities account for nearly 60% of the country's total economic output.

And if we include South Africa's smaller cities two-thirds of South Africans are urbanised (compared to about half thirty years ago) and this trend will not slow down.

This edition of *FreeFACTS* provides information on cities and shows how South Africa's cities differ from the rest of the country in terms of economic output, employment rates, and politics. For example, if South Africa's national elections were determined by only votes from our metropolitan municipalities the African National Congress would have narrowly missed out on a majority. Support for the two biggest opposition parties, the Democratic Alliance and the Economic Freedom Fighters would also have been higher.

Around the world if you live in a city or an urban area you are more likely to be employed and less likely to live in poverty, and South Africa is no exception.

Cities are also hubs for innovation and invention, where people get together and trade with each other and share new ideas. It is no surprise then, that renowned Harvard economist, Ed Glaeser, calls cities humanity's greatest invention.

And that is why it is vital for South Africa's cities to work. We read reports constantly of how cities and towns around South Africa are falling into disrepair and are now often completely broke. Previously this was a phenomenon only affecting smaller settlements but reports indicate that even Johannesburg, the largest (and arguably most important) city in the country, may be close to the point of no return.

Making sure South African cities are pleasant and functional places for people to live, work, and play must be a key aim of policymakers.

For South Africa to work, our cities must work.

— **Marius Roodt**

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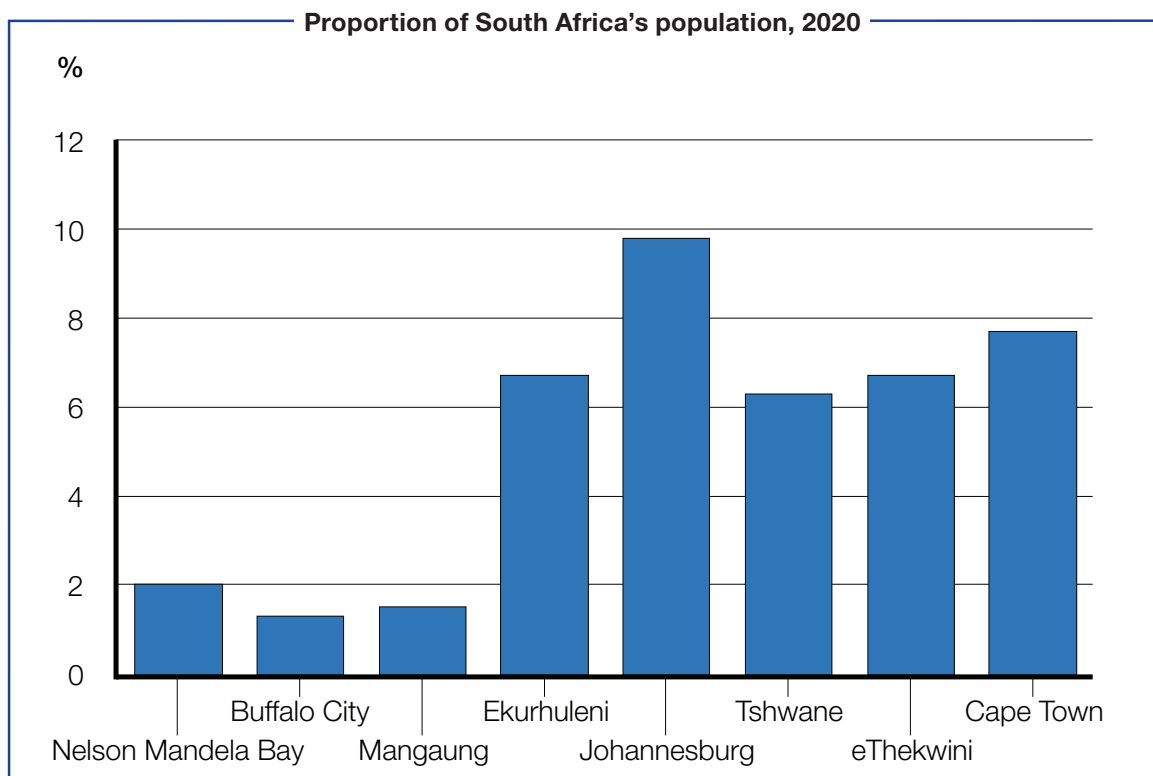
The IRR is an advocacy group that fights for your right to make decisions about your life, family and business, free from unnecessary government, political, and bureaucratic interference. *FreeFACTS* publishes evidence that communities are better off when individuals are free to make decisions about how they want to live, be educated, work, access healthcare, think, speak, own property, and protect their communities. If you agree with the issues we stand for, welcome to the team. There are millions of people just like you who are tired of South African politicians, activists, and commentators attempting to rein in your freedom to decide. Take control and make sure your voice is heard by becoming a friend of the IRR.

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South Africa's cities

| Population of South Africa's Cities, 2020 | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| | Population | Proportion of South Africa's population |
| Nelson Mandela Bay | 1 213 060 | 2.0% |
| Buffalo City | 800 874 | 1.3% |
| Mangaung | 870 920 | 1.5% |
| Ekurhuleni | 3 982 223 | 6.7% |
| Johannesburg | 5 866 550 | 9.8% |
| Tshwane | 3 729 104 | 6.3% |
| eThekwini | 3 981 205 | 6.7% |
| Cape Town | 4 604 986 | 7.7% |
| Total | 25 048 922 | 42.0% |

Source: Socio-Economic Survey 2021, Centre for Risk Analysis



South Africa's cities

Unemployment rate – cities and rural areas, 2021

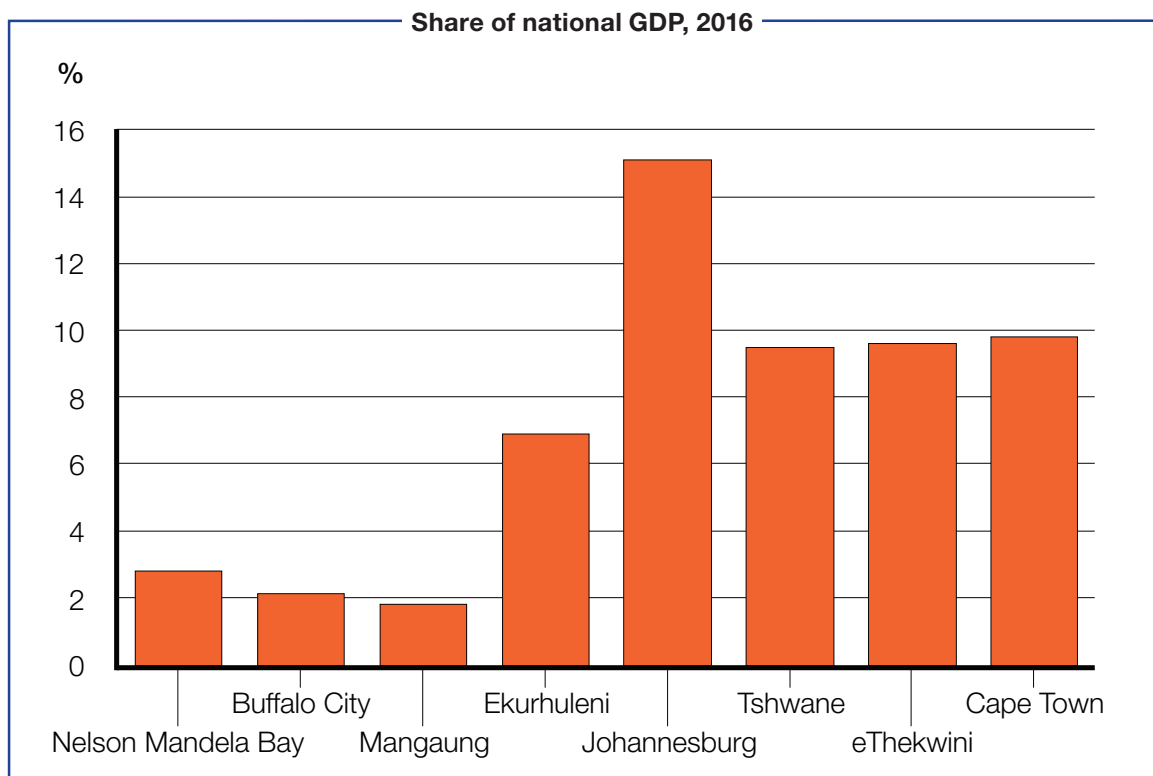
| | Unemployment rate (strict) | Unemployment rate (expanded) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Nelson Mandela Bay | 39.2% | 39.3% |
| Buffalo City | 30.3% | 33.2% |
| Mangaung | 24.6% | 38.2% |
| Ekurhuleni | 34.4% | 41.3% |
| Johannesburg | 34.1% | 41.8% |
| Tshwane | 36.7% | 40.3% |
| eThekweni | 20.6% | 34.9% |
| Cape Town | 26.5% | 29.6% |
| Eastern Cape (excluding BC and NMB) | 48.9% | 56.5% |
| Free State (excluding Mangaung) | 39.8% | 45.6% |
| Gauteng (excluding Jhb, Tsh, and Eku) | 30.2% | 44.1% |
| KwaZulu-Natal (excluding Eth) | 37.2% | 53.4% |
| Limpopo | 29.4% | 49.5% |
| Mpumalanga | 33.5% | 47.6% |
| North-West | 32.2% | 47.2% |
| Northern Cape | 23.4% | 42.2% |
| Western Cape (excluding CT) | 18.1% | 24.7% |
| South Africa | 32.6% | 43.2% |

Source: StatsSA, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 1, 2021, 1 June 2021

South Africa's cities

| Share of the national economy, 2016 | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| City | Share of national GDP |
| Nelson Mandela Bay | 2.8% |
| Buffalo City | 2.1% |
| Mangaung | 1.8% |
| Ekurhuleni | 6.9% |
| Johannesburg | 15.1% |
| Tshwane | 9.5% |
| eThekwini | 9.6% |
| Cape Town | 9.8% |
| Total | 57.6% |

Source: Socio-Economic Survey 2019, Centre for Risk Analysis

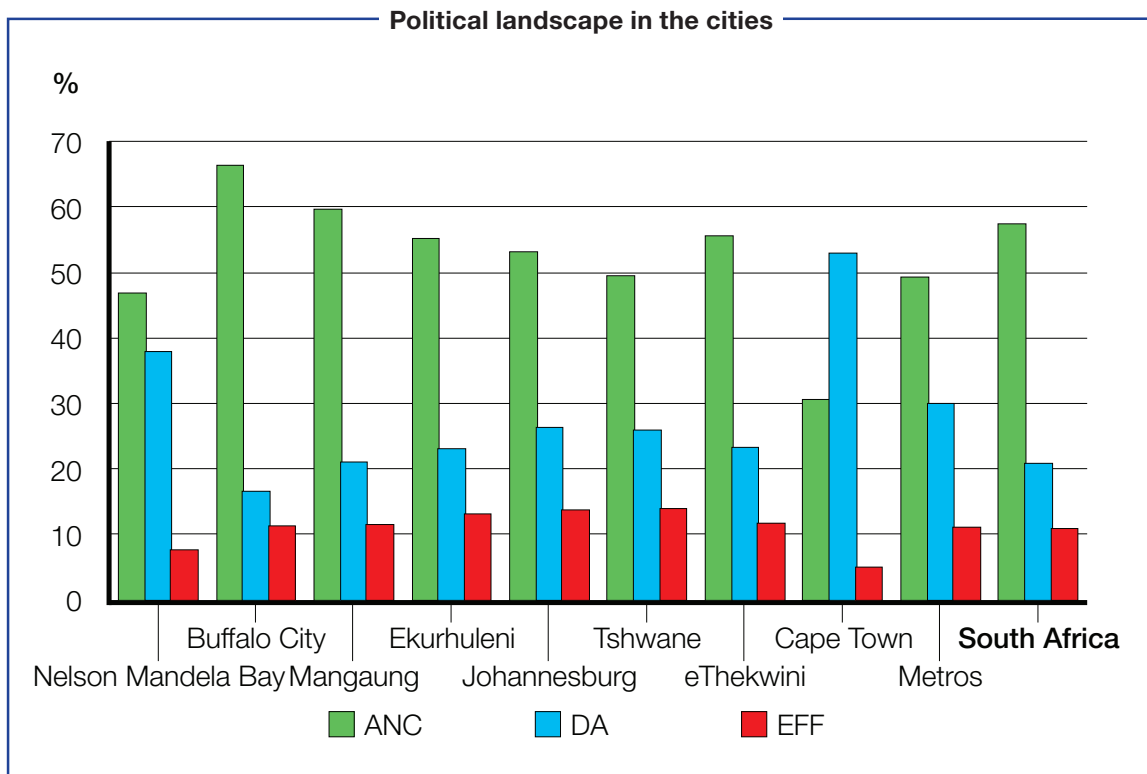


South Africa's cities

| Political landscape of the cities (2019 election results) | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| City | ANC | DA | EFF |
| Nelson Mandela Bay | 46.9% | 37.9% | 7.6% |
| Buffalo City | 66.5% | 16.6% | 11.3% |
| Mangaung | 59.6% | 20.9% | 11.4% |
| Ekurhuleni | 55.2% | 23.1% | 13.1% |
| Johannesburg | 53.1% | 26.3% | 13.7% |
| Tshwane* | 49.6% | 25.9% | 13.8% |
| eThekwini | 55.6% | 23.2% | 11.6% |
| Cape Town | 30.5% | 53.0% | 4.9% |
| Metros | 49.4% | 30.0% | 11.1% |
| South Africa | 57.5% | 20.8% | 10.8% |

Source: IEC, www.elections.org.za

* The Freedom Front Plus received 6.9%



South Africa's cities

