

## **Urbanization in Cape Town**

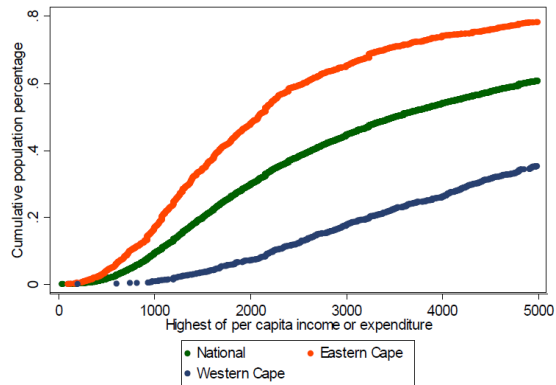
The trend of people migrating from the rural Eastern Cape to the urban Western Cape can be explained by three driving factors: the availability of employment, education, and services.

According to Carol Paton, the high unemployment rate in the Eastern Cape is caused by two factors; long travelling distances to employment opportunities and lack of advantages for industrial investors to conduct business in the Eastern Cape. Commuting to work represents a major challenge since the commuting distance can be enormous, and it may require a lot of effort and money when covered on a daily basis. The lack of a competitive advantage for industry to operate in Eastern Cape also represents a major challenge. People seeking employment will often migrate to the Western Cape cities with the hope that there exists greater economic opportunity (Davids, Nomembe Philanin, & Ferreira, 2009).

Public services provided to a community raise the standard of living and encourage people from less advantaged communities to migrate. Services in the Eastern Cape, in general, are handicapped by a lack of resources. Road services, water services, public space management services, and health services are all in need of much improvement. The increased level of public services available in Western Cape drives people to migrate (Paton, 2010).

Many of the migrants from the Eastern Cape do not have the opportunity or resources to settle in the more established neighbourhoods of Cape Town, and are forced to find accommodation in informal settlements. These settlements are characterized by having high population densities and poor living conditions (CAUVIN, 1986).

The people who migrate are in search of jobs that will allow them to improve their standard of living. In a paper analyzing the determinants of perceived health and labour forced participation of people with HIV/AIDs in



Source: SSA, IES/LFS2000

Khayelitsha, data from the 2001

census was quoted and revealed that, “only 34 percent of Khayelitsha residents are employed and approximately 98 percent of households in Khayelitsha earn a monthly income less than R3, 200 (see appendix C). Most residents in Khayelitsha rely on health services delivered by the state. The HIV prevalence in the public-sector antenatal clinics in this health district in 2002 was 24.9 percent” (Tasiran & Coetzee). In 2009 the GDP per capita for South Africa was estimated in R70 000, 24% of the population was unemployed, and 50% of the population was estimated to live below the poverty line (Central Intelligence Agency, 2010). The GDP per capita for the Eastern Cape is considerably lower than that of the Western Cape, as it is shown in figure 1. In this situation, it is not uncommon for a person to move to great lengths in the hopes of attaining financial stability, and cities are stereotyped for providing employment that can lead to this outcome.