

**Press  
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### **Economic hubs show highest shack growth rate**

The number of households residing in shacks in the Western Cape grew by 82% over a fifteen-year period, the highest growth rate out of all the provinces. This is according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR) in Johannesburg recently.

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

Between 1996 and 2011 the number of shack-dwelling households in the Western Cape grew from 163 000 to 297 000. The second highest growth rate was experienced by Gauteng, whose shacks grew from 468 000 to 740 000, or by 58%.

The information was sourced by the IRR from the 1996 and 2011 censuses published by Statistics South Africa.

Only the Free State and the Eastern Cape experienced reductions in the number of households living in shacks – by 21% and 10% respectively. The reduction of shack-dwellers in the two provinces might have differing explanations.

‘The decline in Eastern Cape shack-dwellers might be explained by the fact that most in-migrants in the country move from the Eastern Cape to other provinces. As for the Free State, the decrease in shacks might be explained by both better housing delivery and migration,’ said Kerwin Lebone of the IRR research department.

Countrywide, the number of households living in shacks grew from 1.45 million to 1.96 million, or by 35%.

‘For as long as the majority of the population continues to rely on three provinces for material advancement, the proliferation of shacks will continue with a heavy bias towards the economic hubs of the country,’ Mr Lebone added.

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