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Five provinces register drops in share of total population

Only four provinces had an increase in their share of the country's population over a period of just more than a decade. The remaining five provinces saw a decrease in the share of their populations as a proportion of the country's total.

Although the overall population has grown by 18%, the Eastern Cape, the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, and the North West all currently contribute smaller portions to the country's total population than they did in 2001. Gauteng, Mpumalanga, the Northern Cape, and the Western Cape now contribute more than they did then.

The Institute obtained the data from Statistics South Africa's 2001 census and the 2013 mid-year estimates.

<i>Province</i>	<i>2001</i>		<i>2013</i>		<i>Change in proportion</i>
	<i>Population in 2001</i>	<i>Proportion of total</i>	<i>Population in 2013</i>	<i>Proportion of total</i>	
Eastern Cape	6 436 763	14.4%	6 620 100	12.5%	-13.2%
Free State	2 706 775	6.0%	2 753 200	5.2%	-13.3%
Gauteng	8 837 178	19.7%	12 728 400	24.0%	21.8%
KwaZulu-Natal	9 426 017	21.0%	10 456 900	19.7%	-6.2%
Limpopo	5 273 642	11.8%	5 518 000	10.4%	-11.9%
Mpumalanga	3 122 990	7.0%	4 128 000	7.8%	11.4%
North West	3 669 349	8.2%	3 597 600	6.8%	-17.1%
Northern Cape	822 727	1.8%	1 162 900	2.2%	22.2%
Western Cape	4 524 335	10.1%	6 016 900	11.4%	12.9%
South Africa	44 819 778	100.0%	52 982 000	100.0%	-

Thuthukani Ndebele, a researcher at the Institute, said, 'In 2001, KwaZulu-Natal held the biggest share of the total population but is now second to Gauteng. The Northern Cape's change in proportion was highest, although it still contributes the least to the whole population.'

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