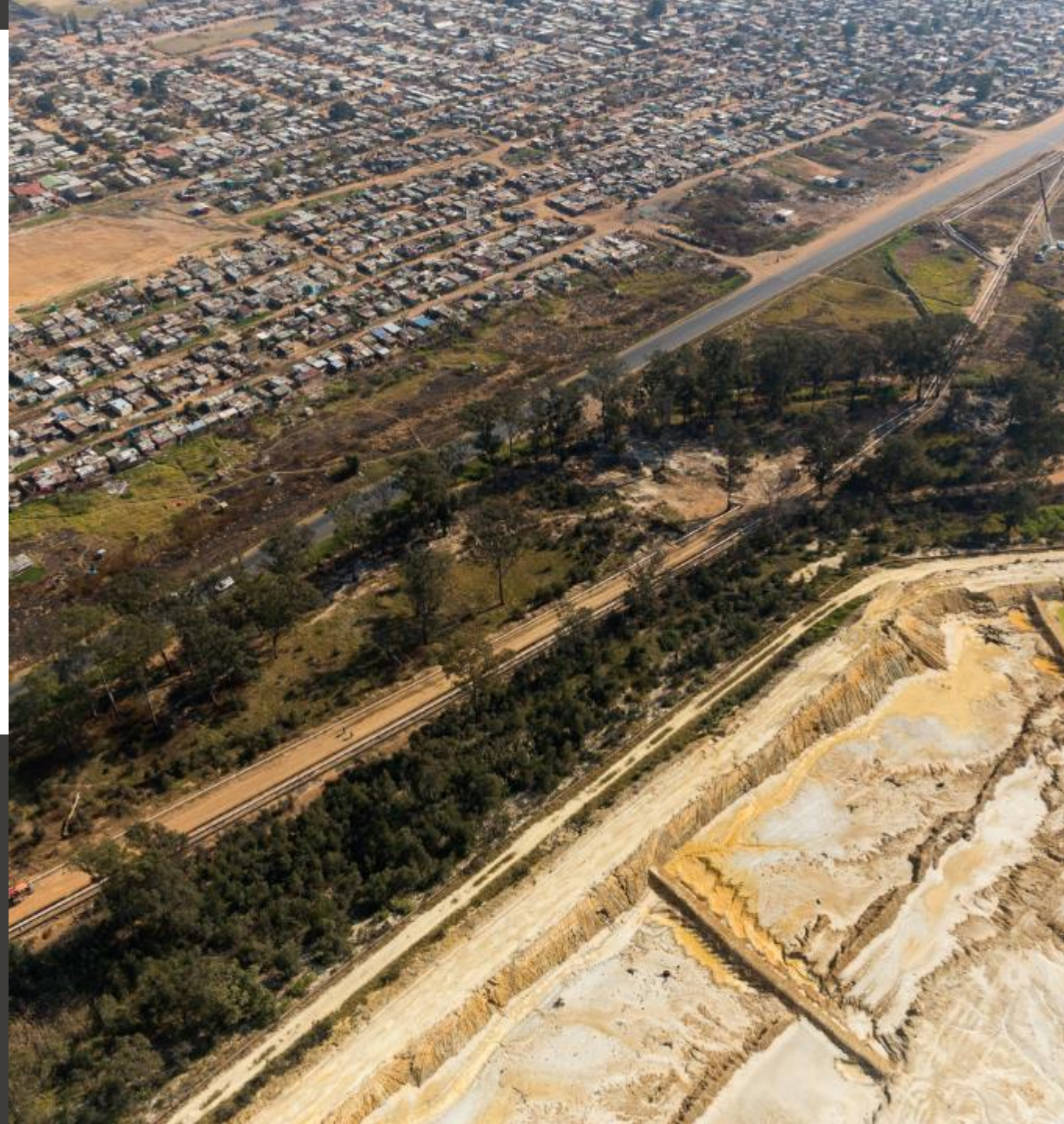


Social, spatial and governance contours of the Gauteng City-Region

Wits University Alumni Relations

26 August 2021

Rashid Seedat
Executive Director:
Gauteng City-Region Observatory



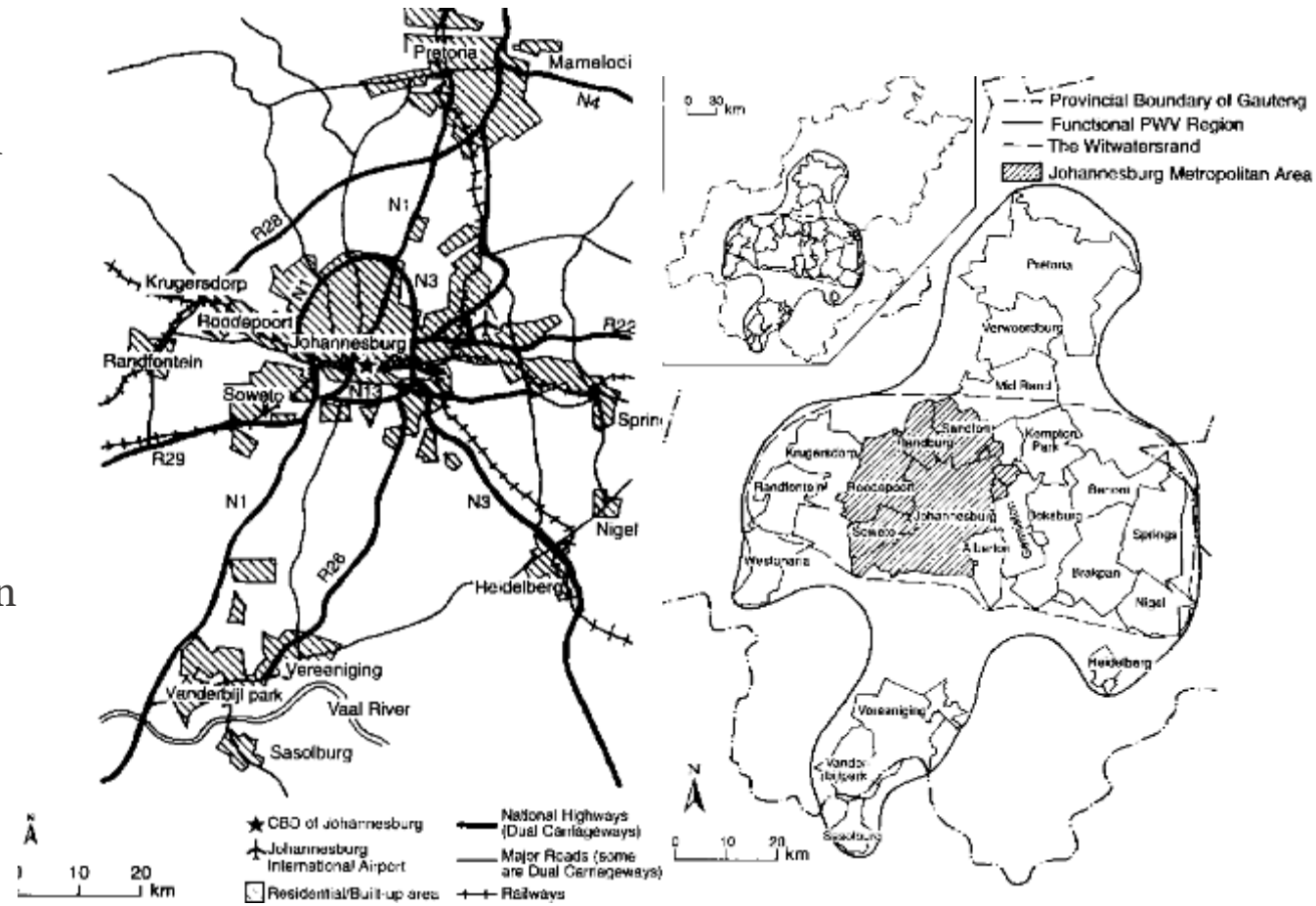
Introduction

- Exactly forty years ago – **1981** – I registered as a student at Wits University for the first time
- It was the **height of 'grand apartheid'** but also coincided with a **major resurgence of the struggle** against apartheid
- The most memorable events at the time were the protests against the 20th anniversary celebrations against the republic (**Anti-Republic Day Campaign**) and the **burning of the apartheid flag** on the piazza outside Great Hall
- During the early days of that political resurgence of the 1980s, Wits was at the centre of many resistance rallies, protests and academic courses
- The reasons it played this role were multifarious:
 - Wits had to uphold its **liberal tradition of academic freedom**
 - A growing proportion of **militant black students** coupled with a **progressive white student organisations**
 - It was **located in the heart of Johannesburg; and in the centre of the gold fields of the Witwatersrand**



Introduction

- At the time, Johannesburg was located in the Transvaal province – however, the idea of a wider metropolitan region began to take shape during the 1980s
- By the late 1980s/early 1990s this emerging conurbation was named the PWV Region – Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal Region
- It was recognised as a province in 1994 and became known as Gauteng - ‘Place of Gold’
- Subsequent scholarship has suggested that there is a wider entity – known as the Gauteng City-Region
- This is the subject of my talk and I will focus on:
 - **Overview of the work** of the Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO)
 - **Spatial features of the city-region**
 - Issues on **social mobility**
 - Quality of Life surveys conducted by the GCRO to enable an **understanding of some key governance issues**
- Presentation titled ‘contours’ because of the use of mapping; and it’s a high-level outline of these issues



The Gauteng City-Region Observatory

Who are we?



*GCRO helps to build the knowledge base that government, business, labour, civil society and residents all need to shape appropriate strategies that will **advance a competitive, integrated, sustainable and inclusive Gauteng City-Region.***

- Launched September 2008
- GCRO is an institutional collaboration between:
 - University of Johannesburg (UJ)
 - University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
 - Gauteng Provincial Government
 - Organised local government in Gauteng
- GCRO Board comprises 2 academics from each university, and 2 reps each from provincial and local government
- Funded with a core grant from the Gauteng Premier's Office, with UJ and Wits contributing additional in-kind support
- Currently about 20 staff
- Located at Wits University – 6th floor University Corner

The Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO)

What we do?

On request policy work

Data, indicators and
benchmarks

Medium to long term
research

Academic contributions

Partnership and networks

Government – academia
portal

- Direct assistance to government through short to medium-term work, commissioned or requested analytical reports and hosted events
- Collection and analysis of strategically useful data, surveys, development of new data sources, GIS mapping and analysis, innovative data products
- More in-depth, analytically complex research of relevance to strategic decision-making on how best to build the city-region
- Research driven by long-term interests, not the need for immediate policy answers – academic publications, seminars and colloquia, teaching & presentations
- Structures, processes and interventions to connect government to academic expertise, or to help academic specialists reach decision makers
- Continued outreach to stakeholders; development of partnership arrangements; knowledge-sharing network connections to similar institutions

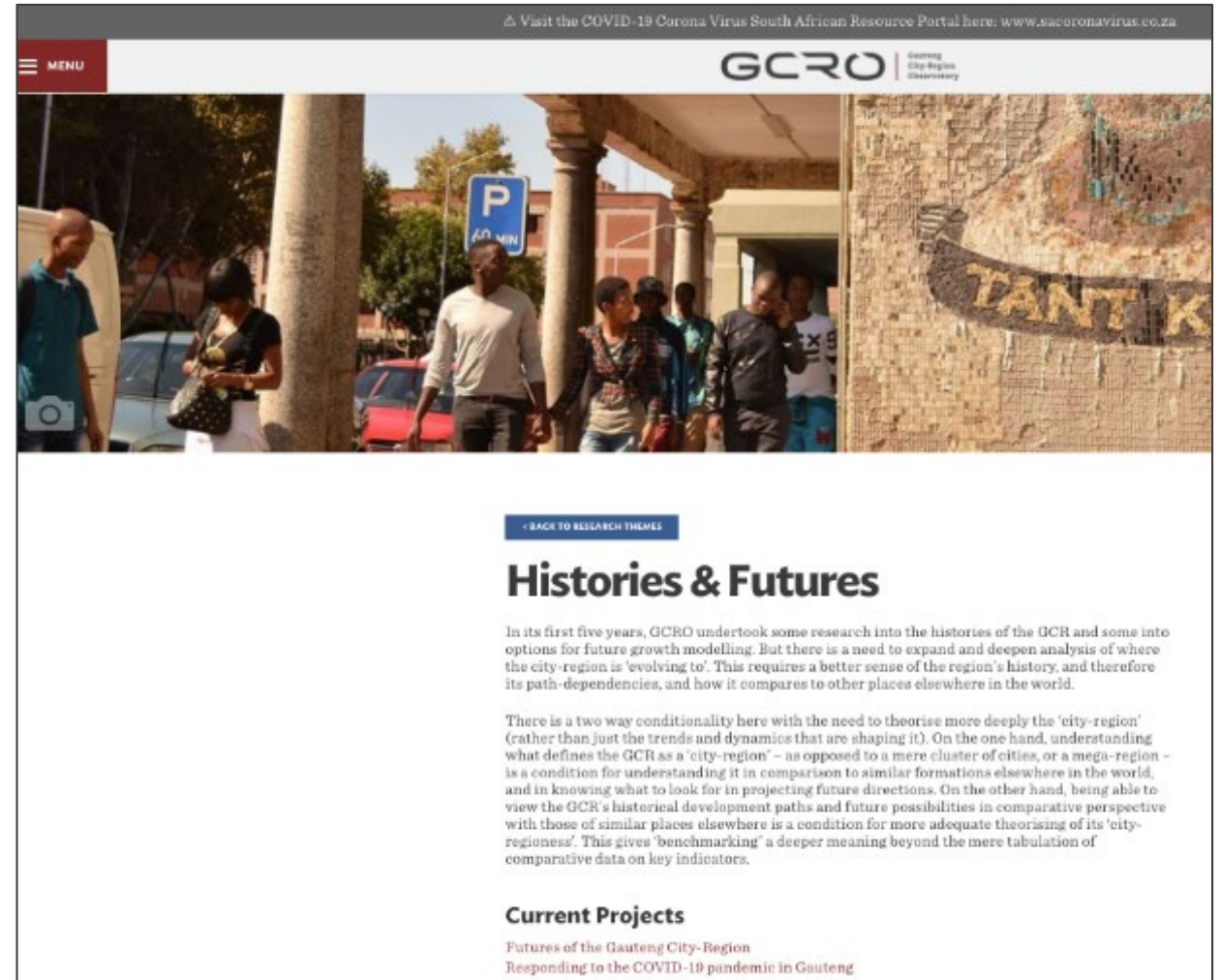
Research themes

9 research themes

Research themes:

1. Poverty, inequality, social mobility
2. Understanding quality of life
3. Sustainability and just transitions
4. Spatial transformation
5. Social change
6. A governance agenda for the GCR
7. Inclusive economic development
8. Data analytics, informatics and visualisation
9. Histories and futures

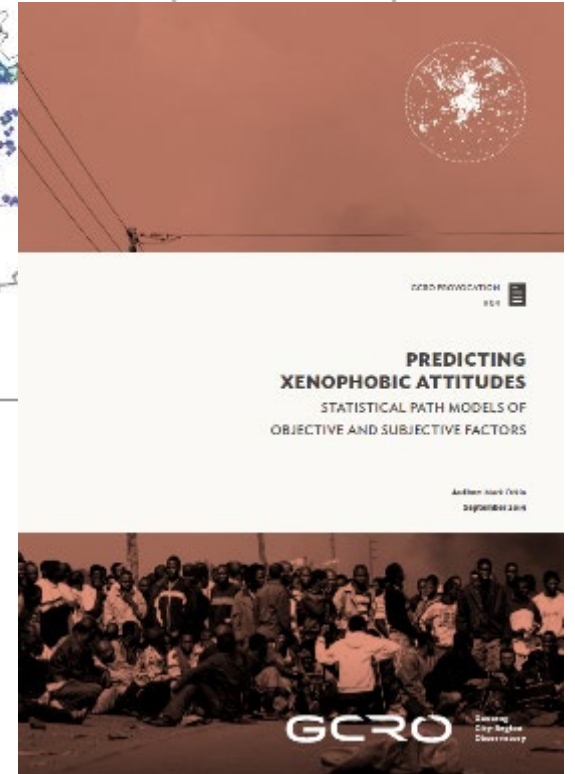
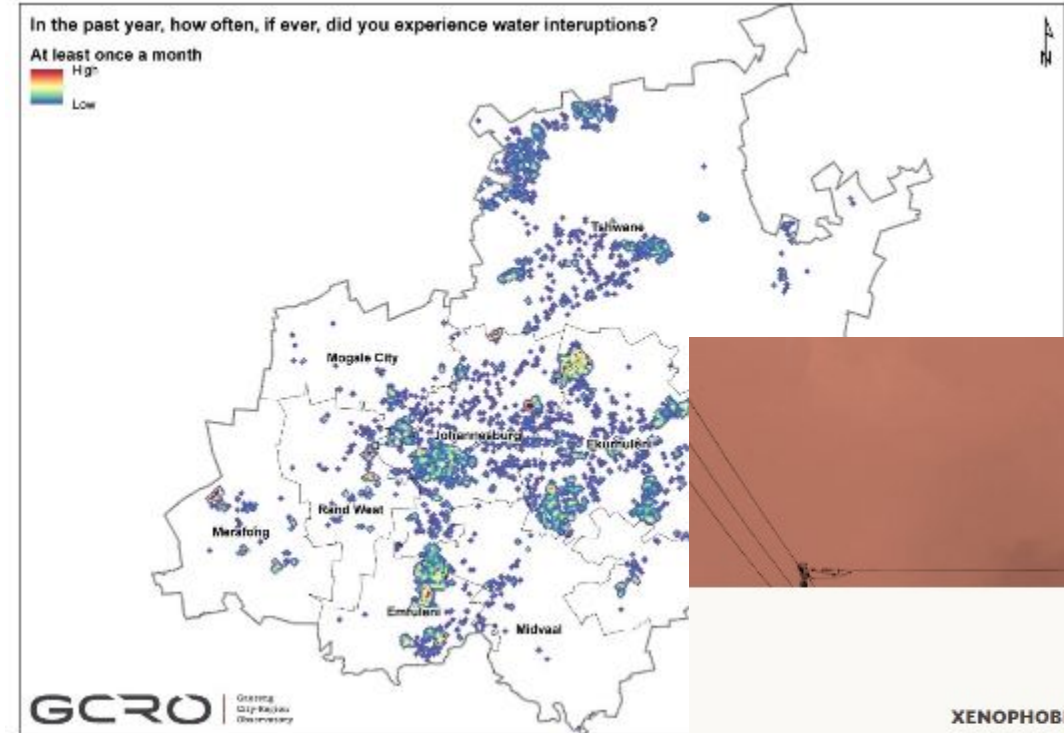
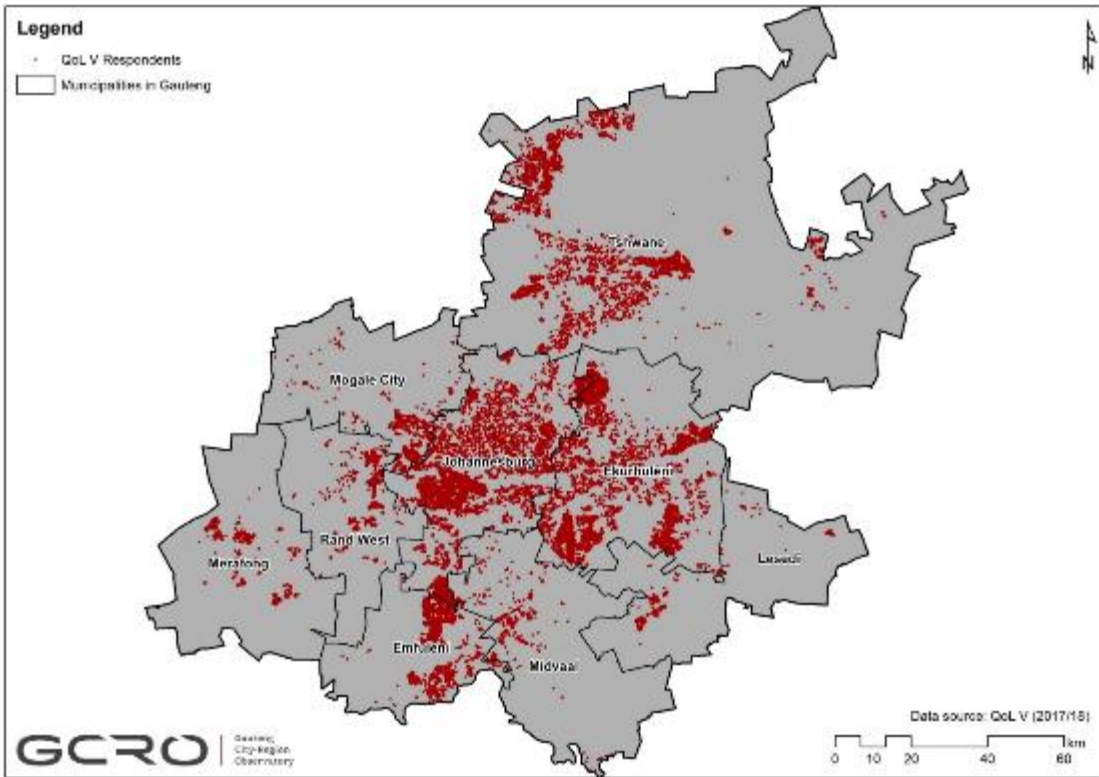
Also direct government support



Research projects

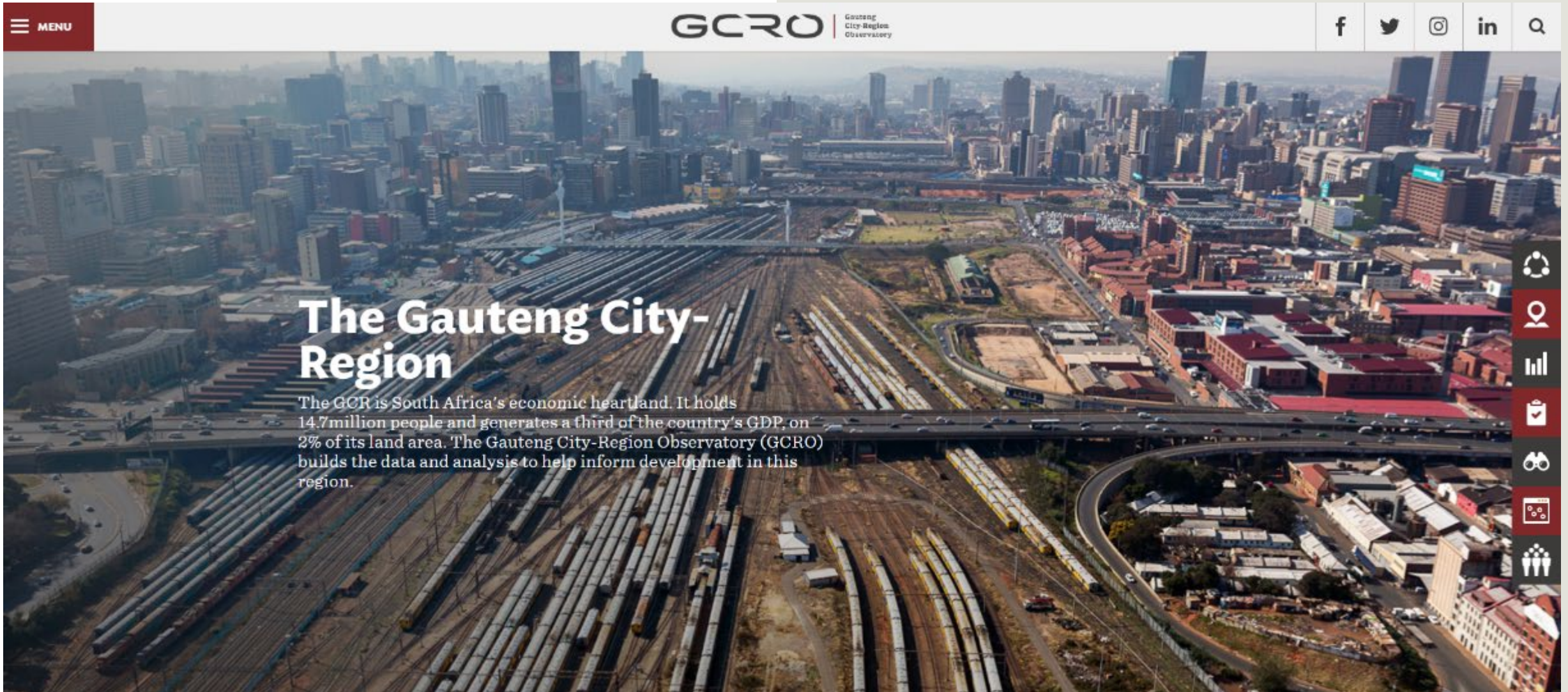
Within Understanding Quality of Life – our flagship Quality of Life Survey

- Our biennial QoL survey is now in its 6th iteration
- About to release results for the 2020/21 survey – 13 600 respondents



Open access via GCRO website

www.gcro.ac.za

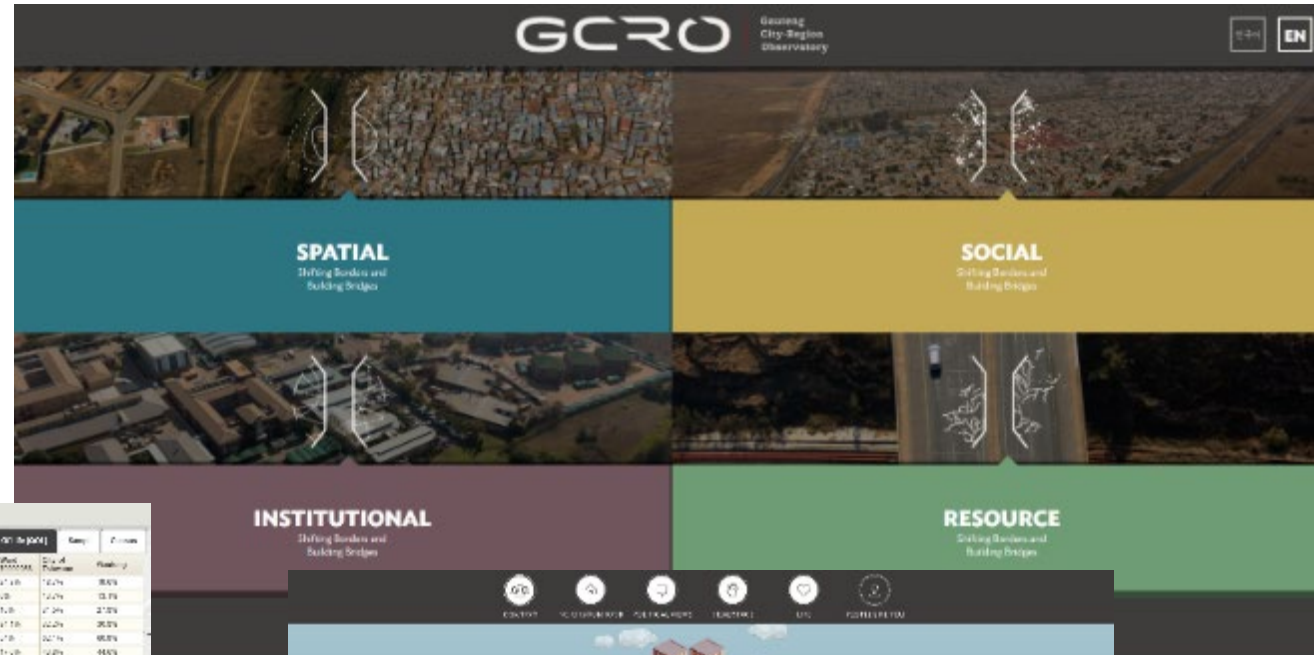
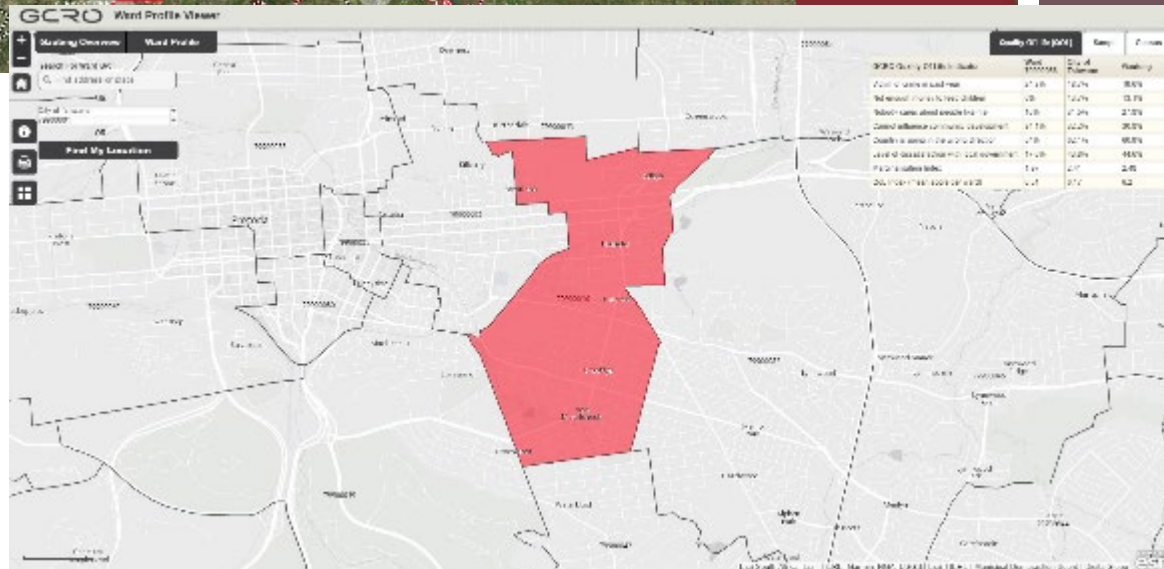
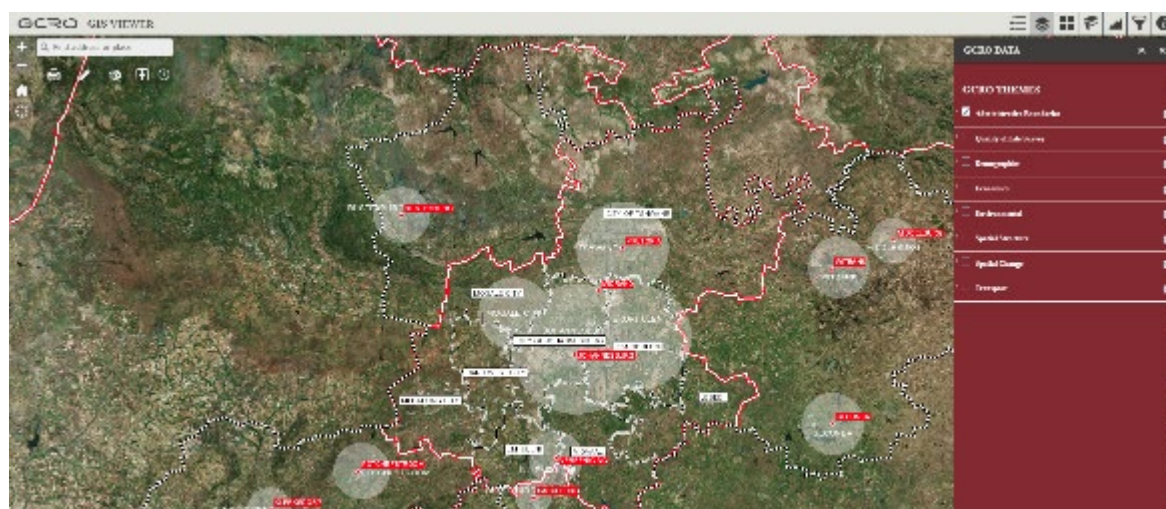


The Gauteng City-Region

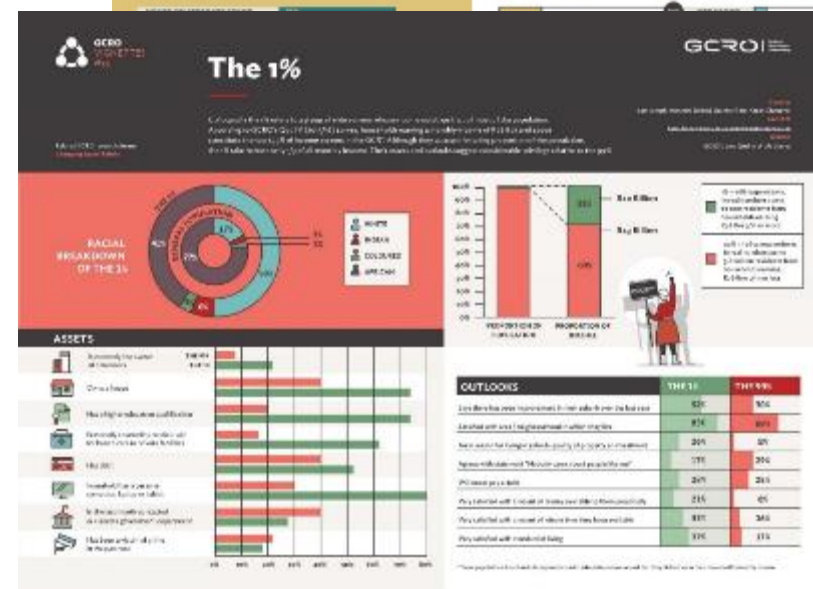
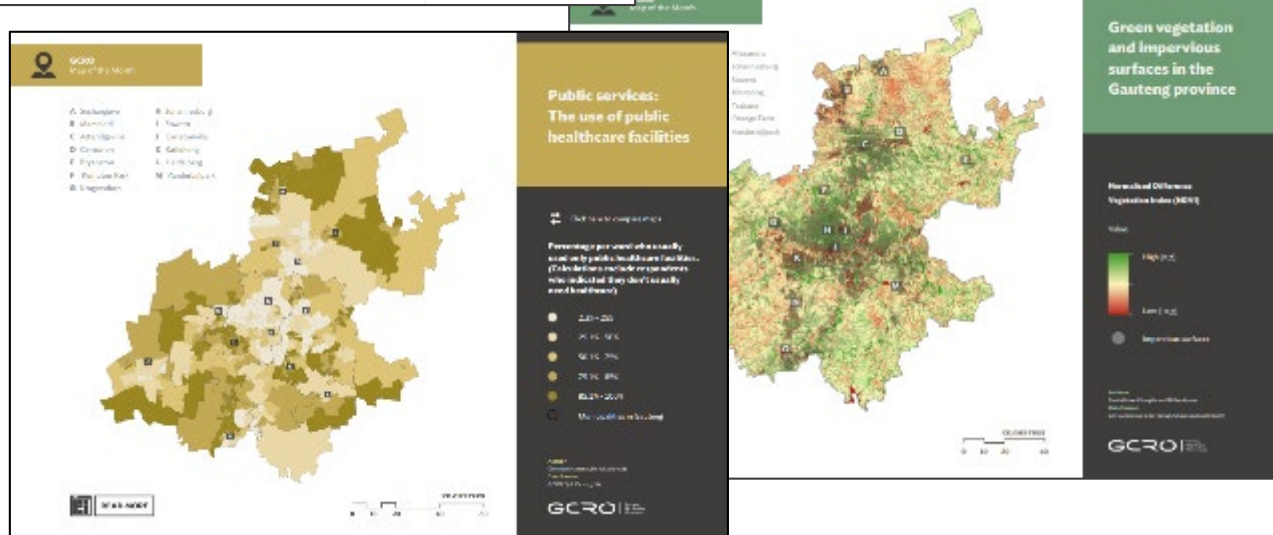
The GCR is South Africa's economic heartland. It holds 14.7million people and generates a third of the country's GDP, on 2% of its land area. The Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) builds the data and analysis to help inform development in this region.

Key outputs

Interactive websites and visualisations

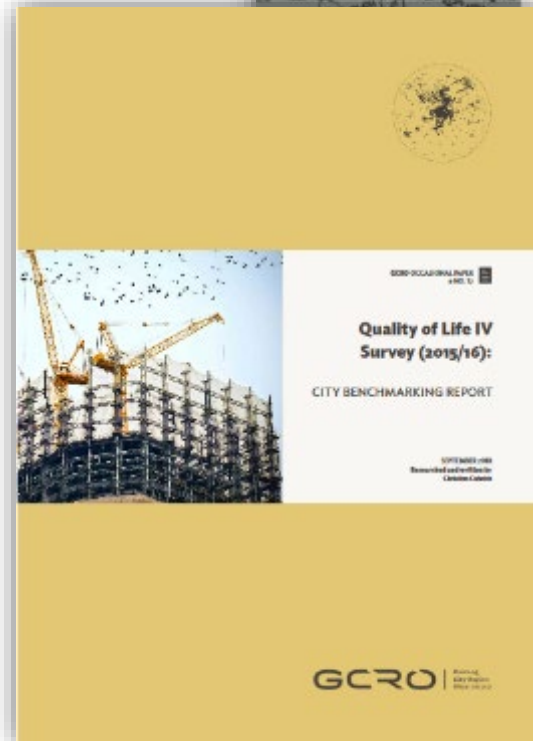
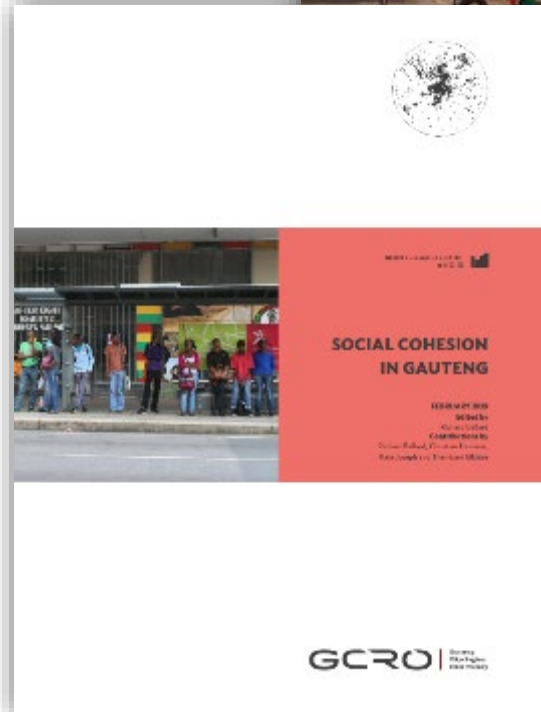


Maps of the Month and Vignettes



Key outputs

Research reports, Occasional Papers, Data Briefs



Research partnerships

Formal and informal collaborations



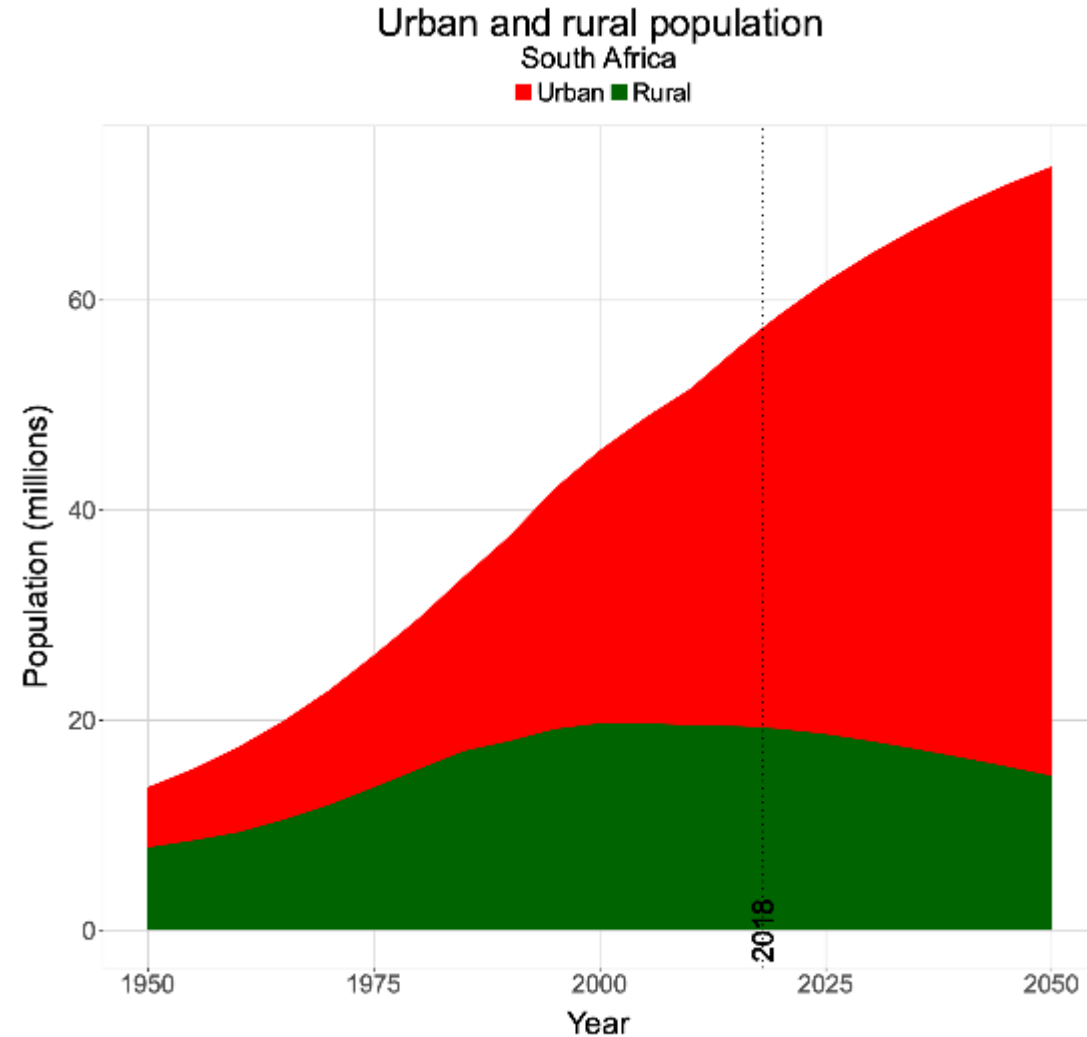
An aerial photograph of a vast, densely populated urban area. The foreground and middle ground are filled with a tightly packed grid of small, low-rise buildings, likely residential or commercial structures. The roofs are mostly flat and dark, with some lighter-colored roofs visible. A few larger, more prominent buildings are scattered throughout. In the far background, a city skyline is visible against a hazy sky, featuring several tall skyscrapers. The overall scene depicts a sprawling, high-density city environment.

Spatial features of the city-region

Context of growth

Urbanisation – the South African story

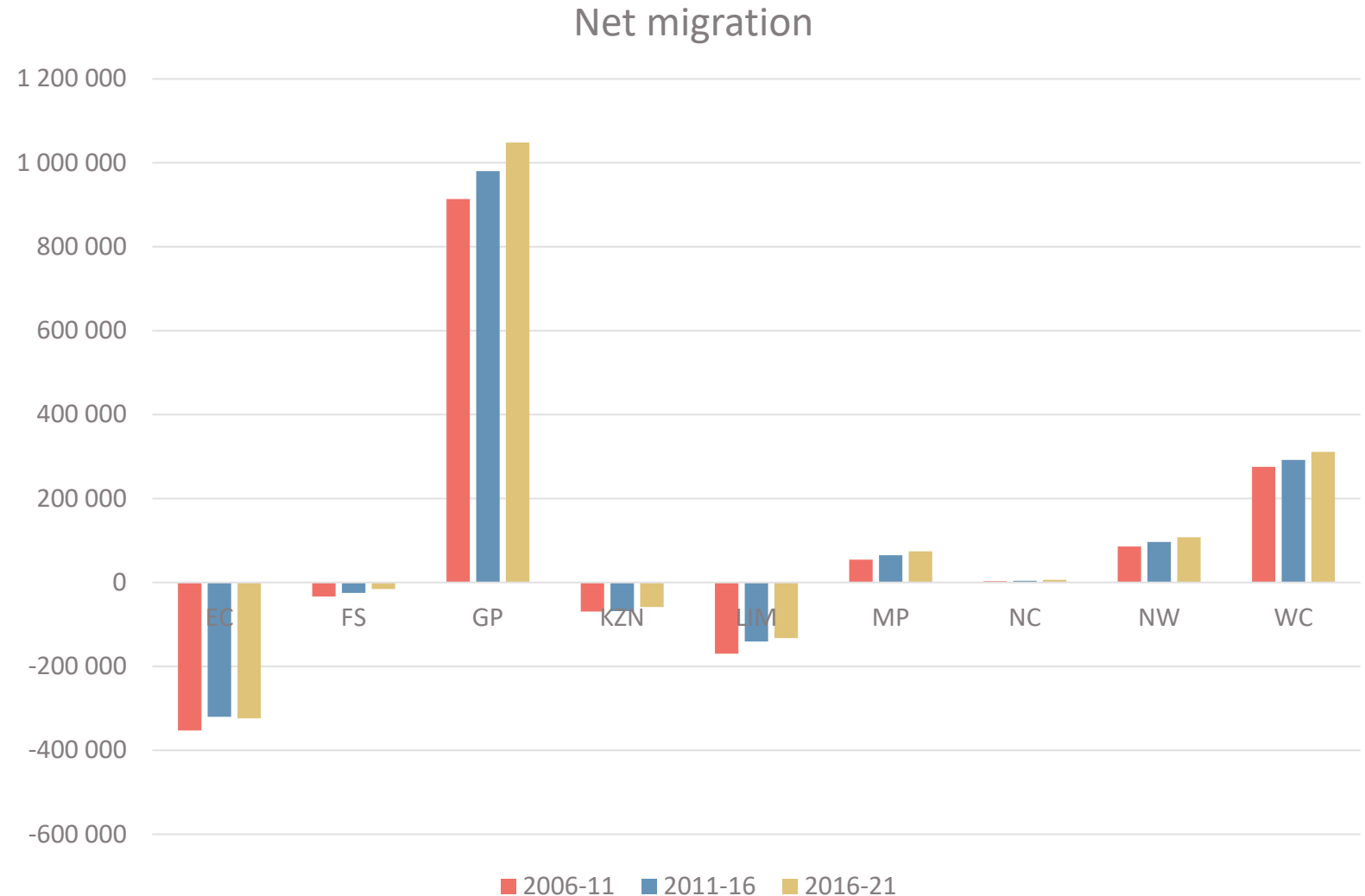
- Note the **red peaks (decline)** in the maps
- It is not simply that the urban population is growing in proportional terms (i.e. what % is urbanised)
- The **rural population is declining** in absolute terms
- Important to understand that this does not necessarily mean the flooding of cities with rural migrants. For example, there are **many new urban settlements in the heart of rural areas**

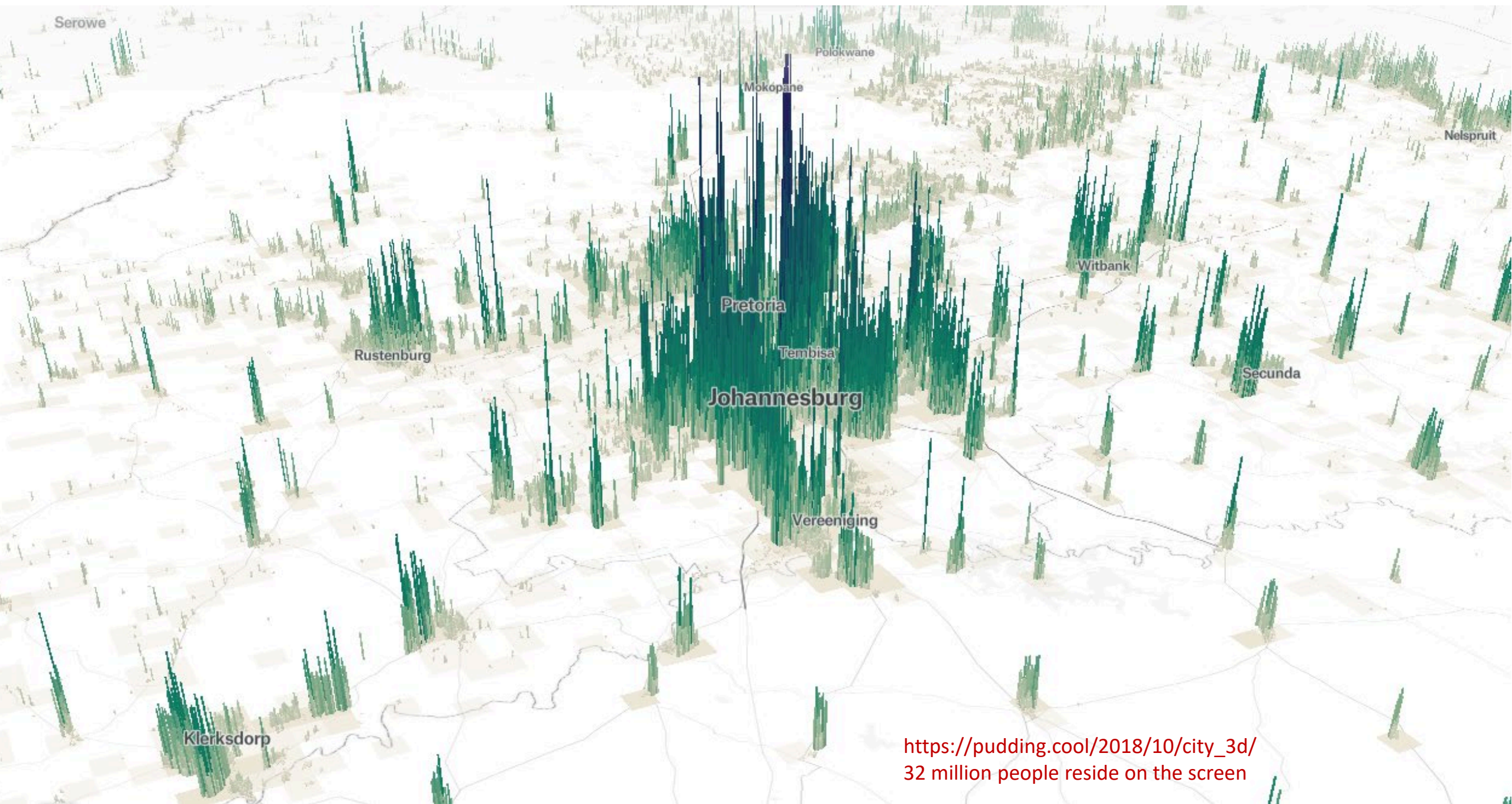


Context of growth

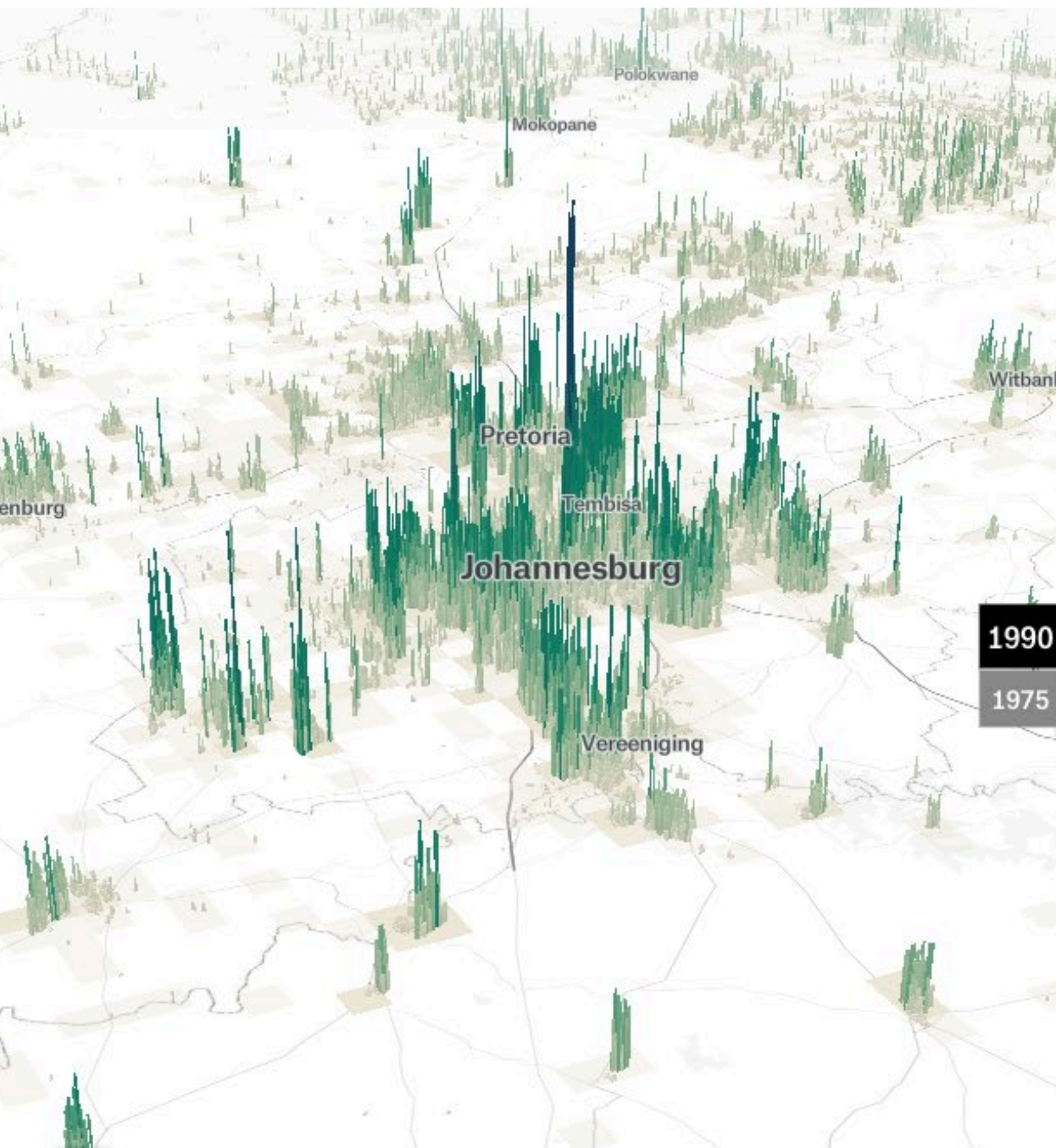
Urbanisation – inter-provincial movements

- Between 2016 and 2021 it is estimated that some 500 000 people will move out of Gauteng
- 1 600 000 will move into Gauteng
- Leaving a net increase from migration of +1 000 000 over the current five years
- To this must be added natural or internal growth

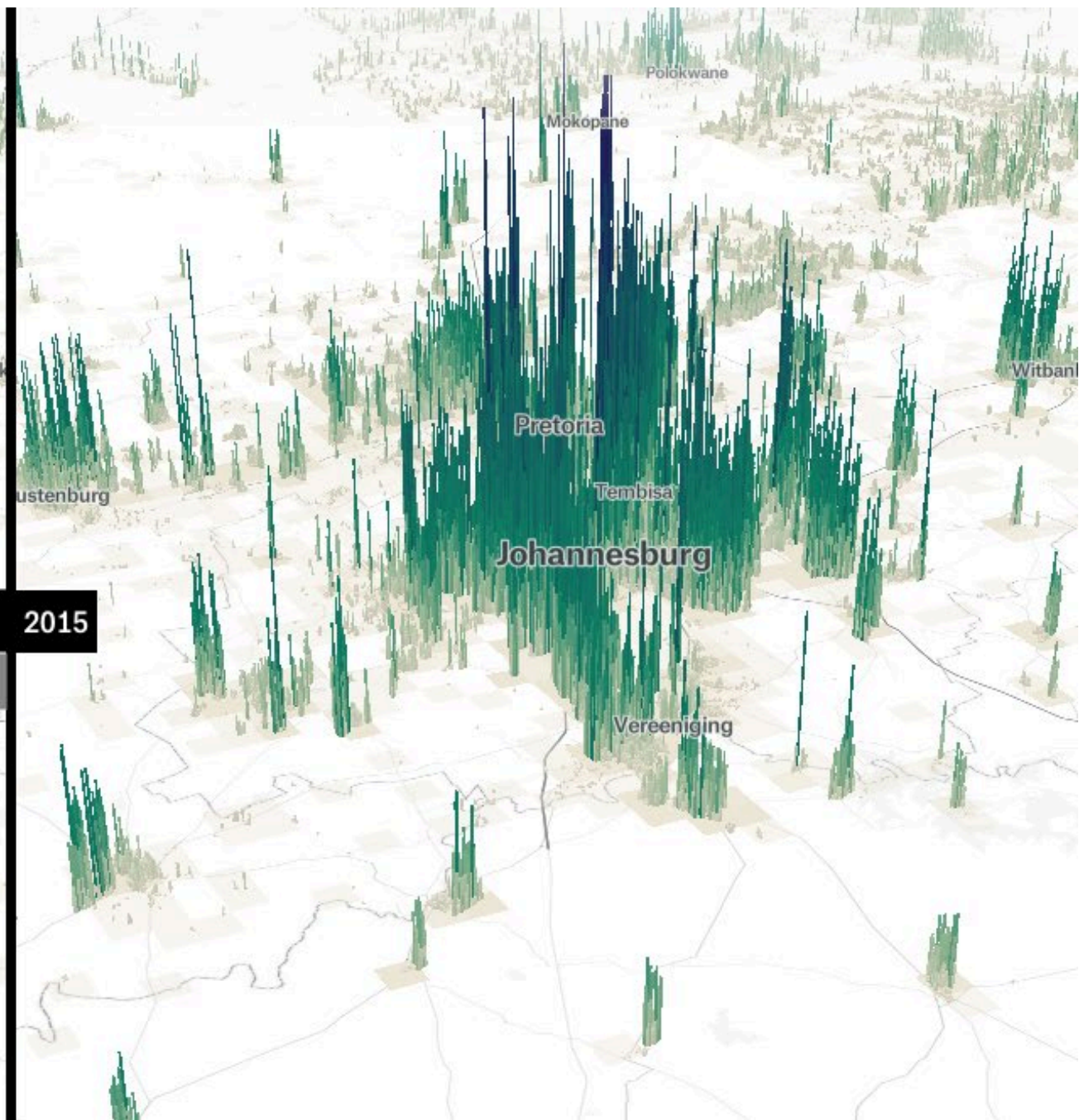




https://pudding.cool/2018/10/city_3d/
32 million people reside on the screen

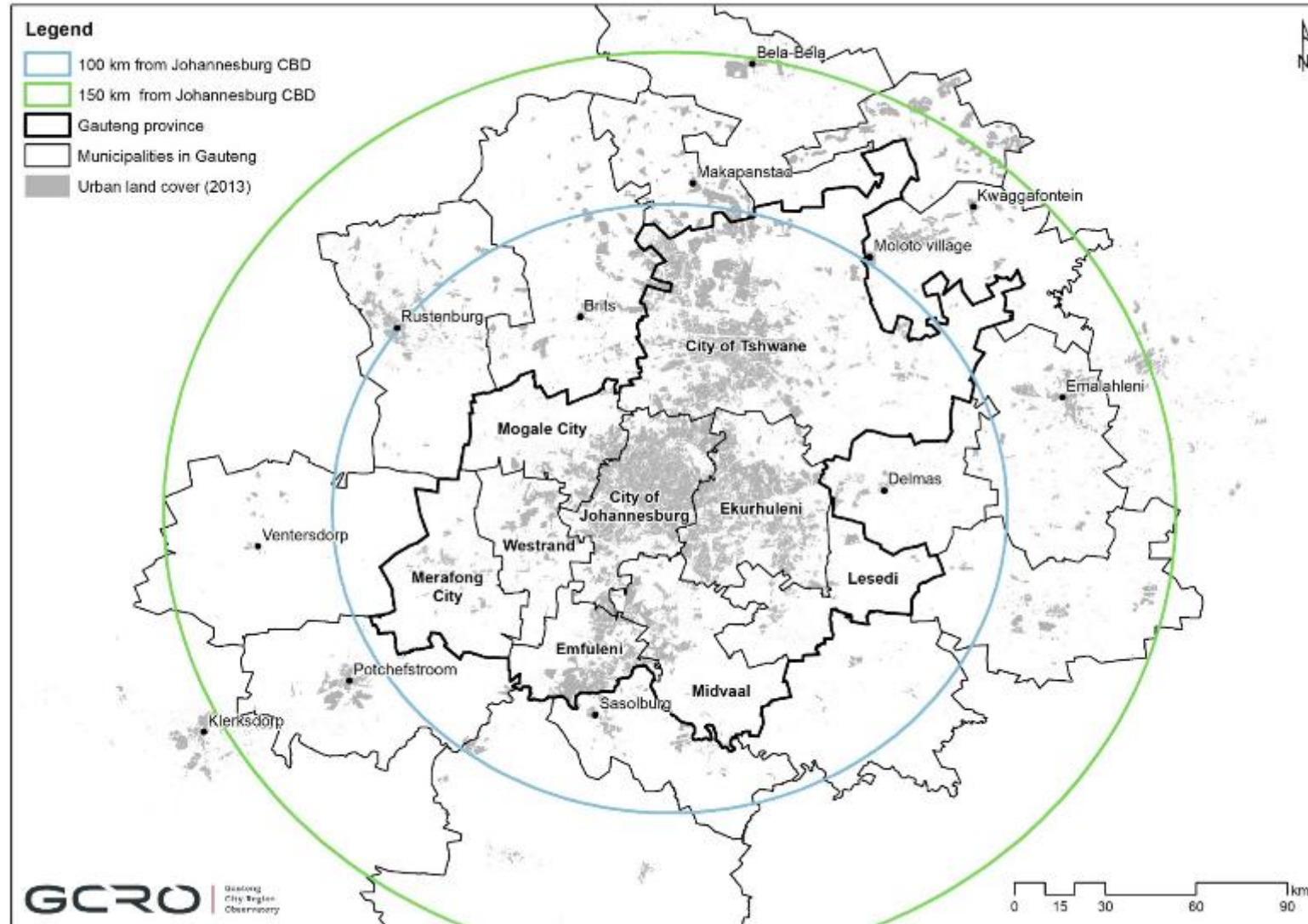


1990 2015
1975



The Gauteng City-Region (GCR)

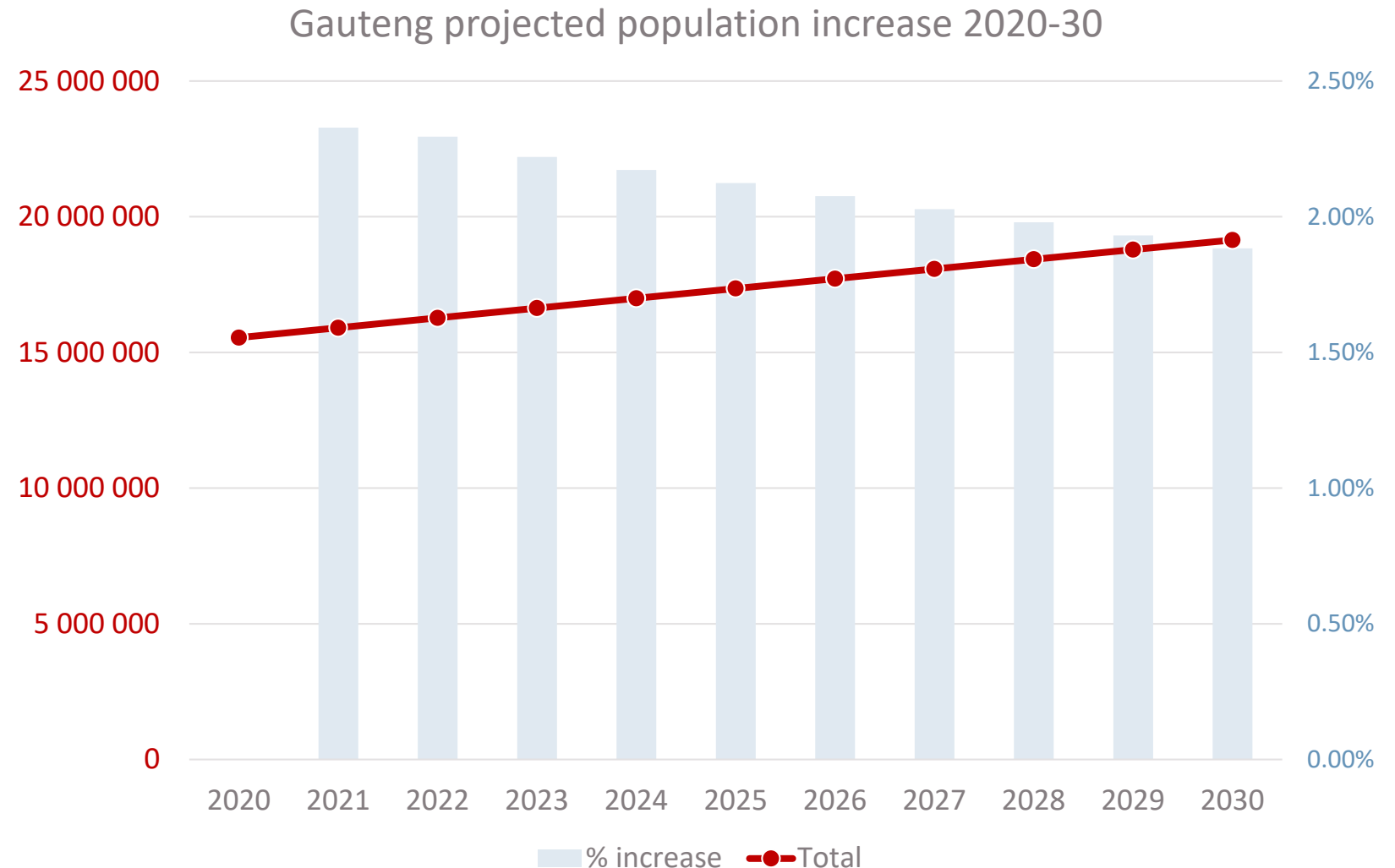
Context



Context of growth

Overall population growth

- The population of Gauteng is estimated at 15 544 894 (2020 mid-year population estimates from StatsSA)
- Looking forward, it is projected to grow some **360 000 from 2020 to 2021**
- **7 000 per week**
- About **1 800 000 every five years**

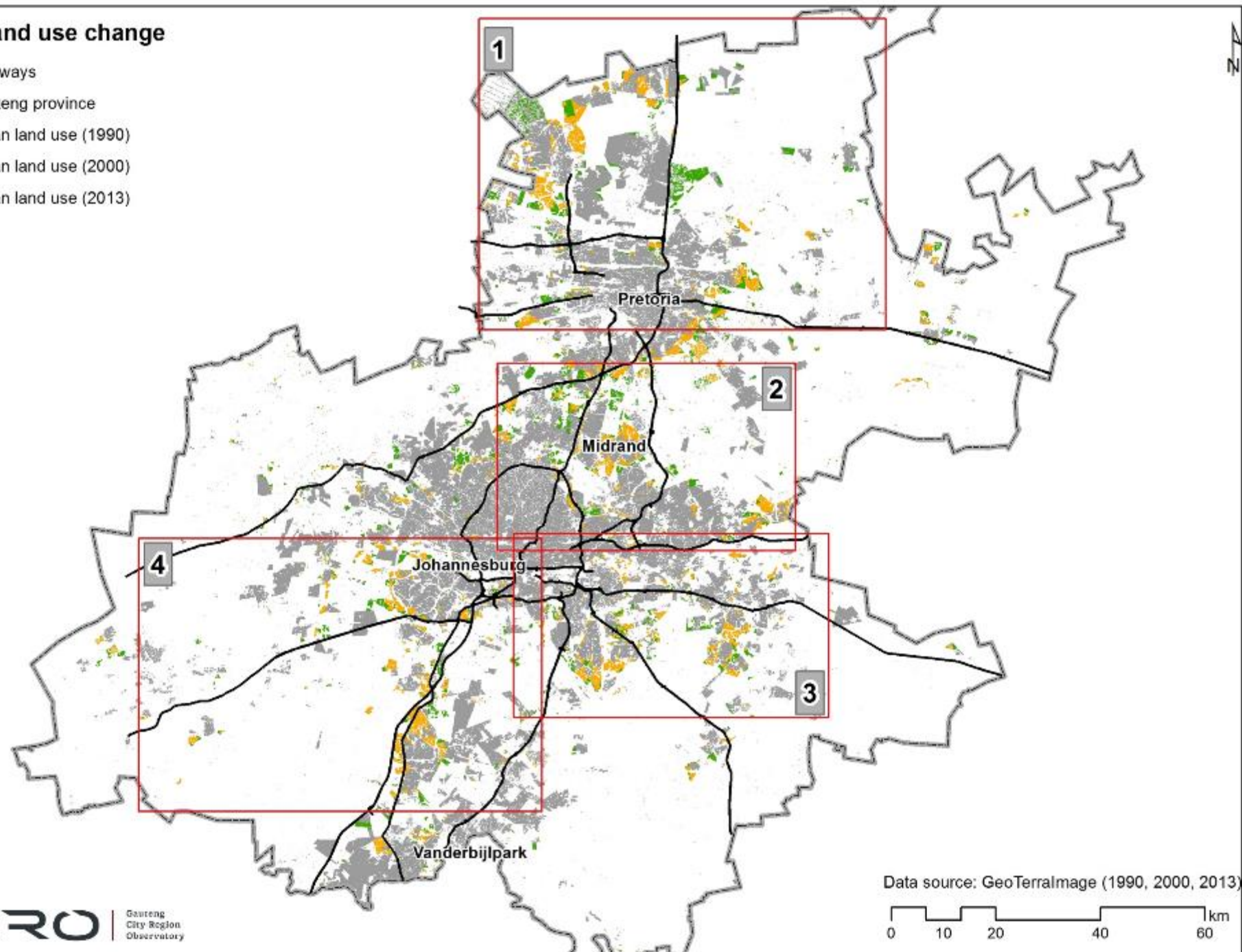


An aerial photograph of a densely packed informal settlement. The houses are built closely together, with roofs made of various materials including corrugated metal, wood, and plastic. The surrounding area is filled with dirt, debris, and some sparse vegetation. The text "Settlement / housing dynamics: key trends" is overlaid in yellow on the left side of the image.

Settlement / housing dynamics: key trends

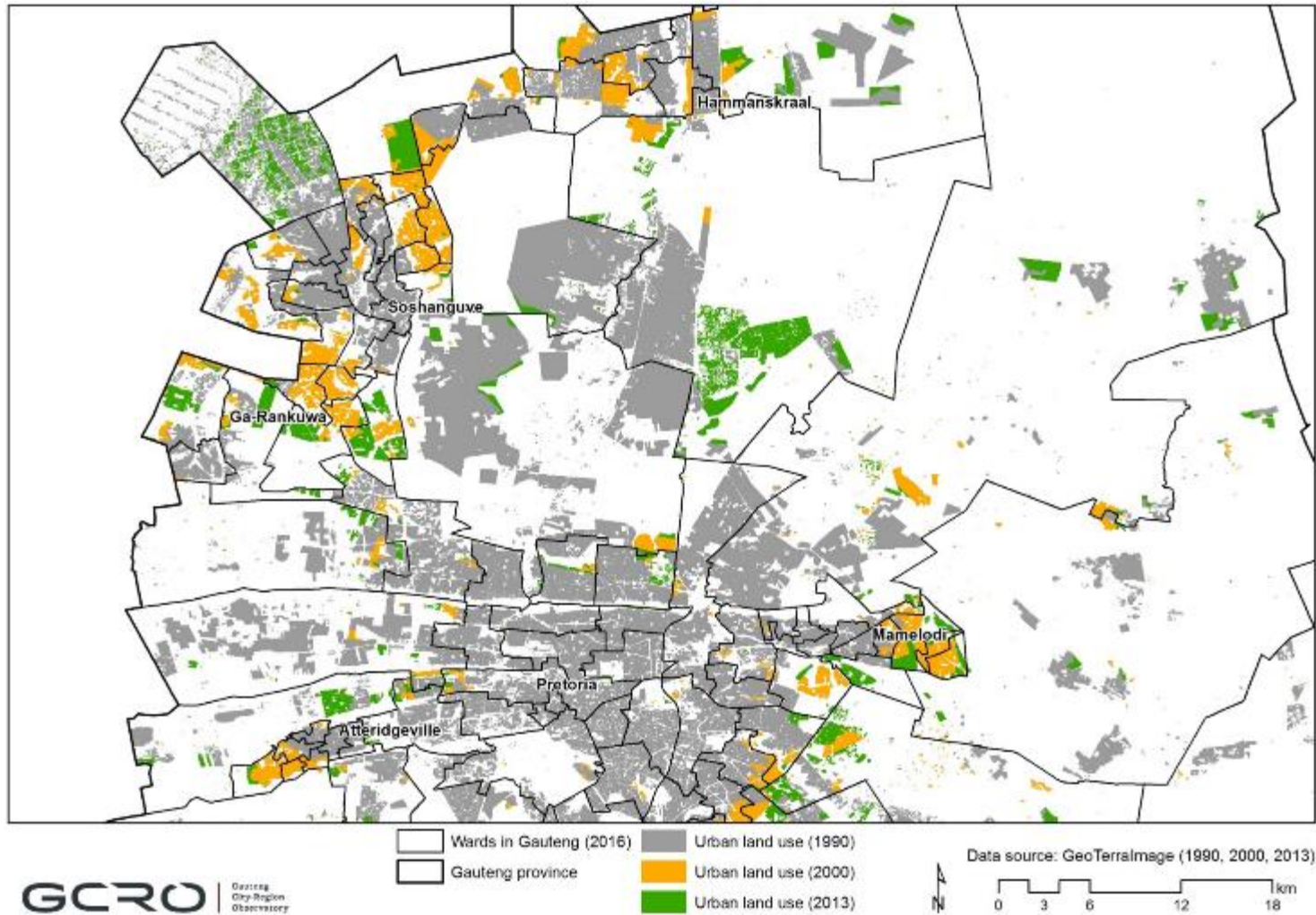
Urban land use change

- Highways
- Gauteng province
- Urban land use (1990)
- Urban land use (2000)
- Urban land use (2013)



Settlement / housing trends

1. Rapid land use change, but slowing down

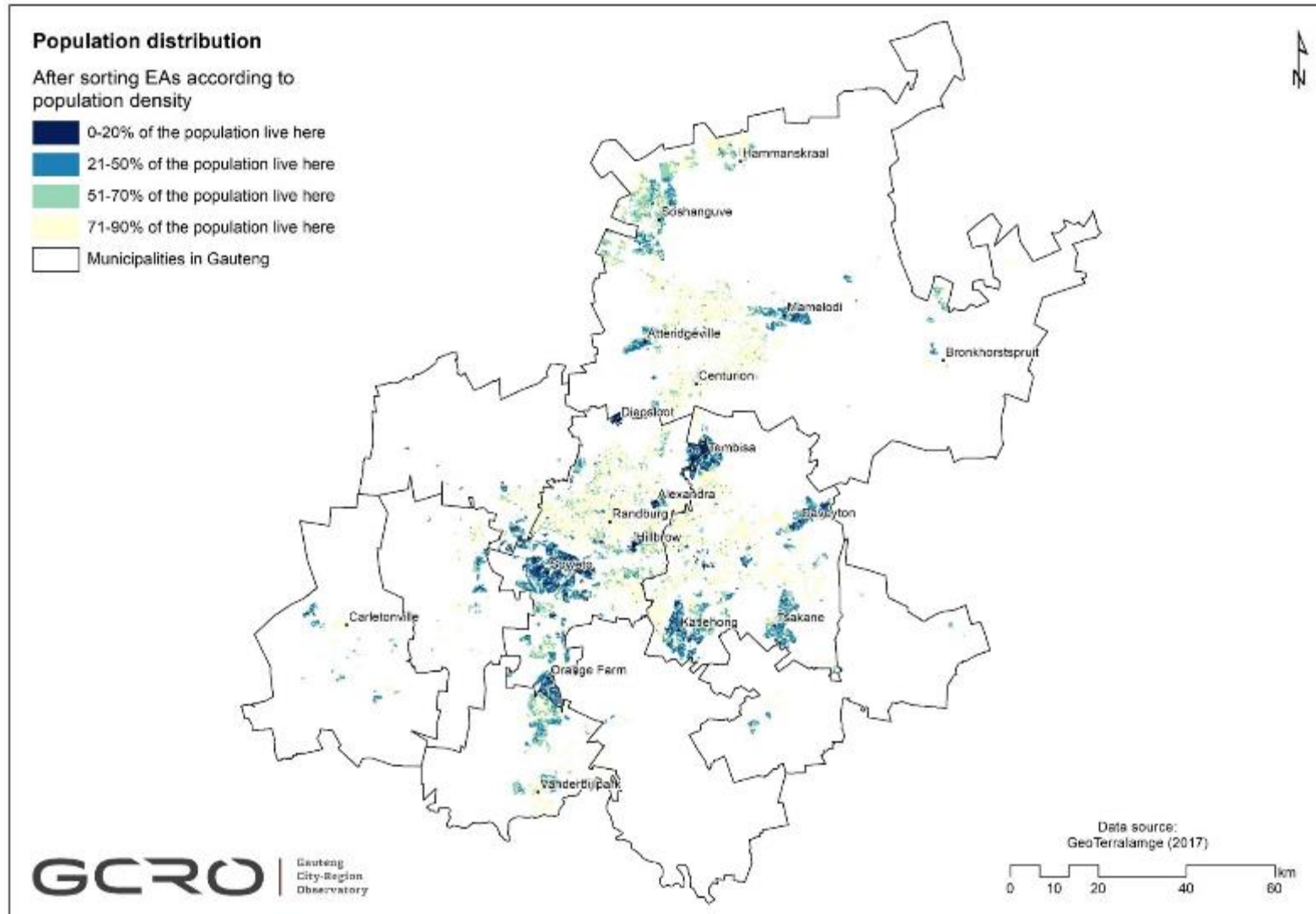


- Between 1990 and 2000 we were converting around 43km² each year to urban land use
- From 2000-2013, 17km² of land was converted from non-urban land use to urban use each year
- The rate of urban land growth is slowing down

	Ave added p/a	Ave % growth p/a
1990-2000	43 km ²	2.2%
2000-2013	17 km ²	0,8%

Settlement / housing trends

2. Uneven densities



- Most cities in the world are becoming less dense over time
- What that means is that in most cities, people used to be more tightly packed together than they are today
- GCR is an unusual case of the opposite happening – people are becoming more tightly packed together over time
- However, this density is unevenly spread
- 50% of Gauteng's residents lives on just 2.4% of the province's land (the blue and black areas)

Settlement / housing trends

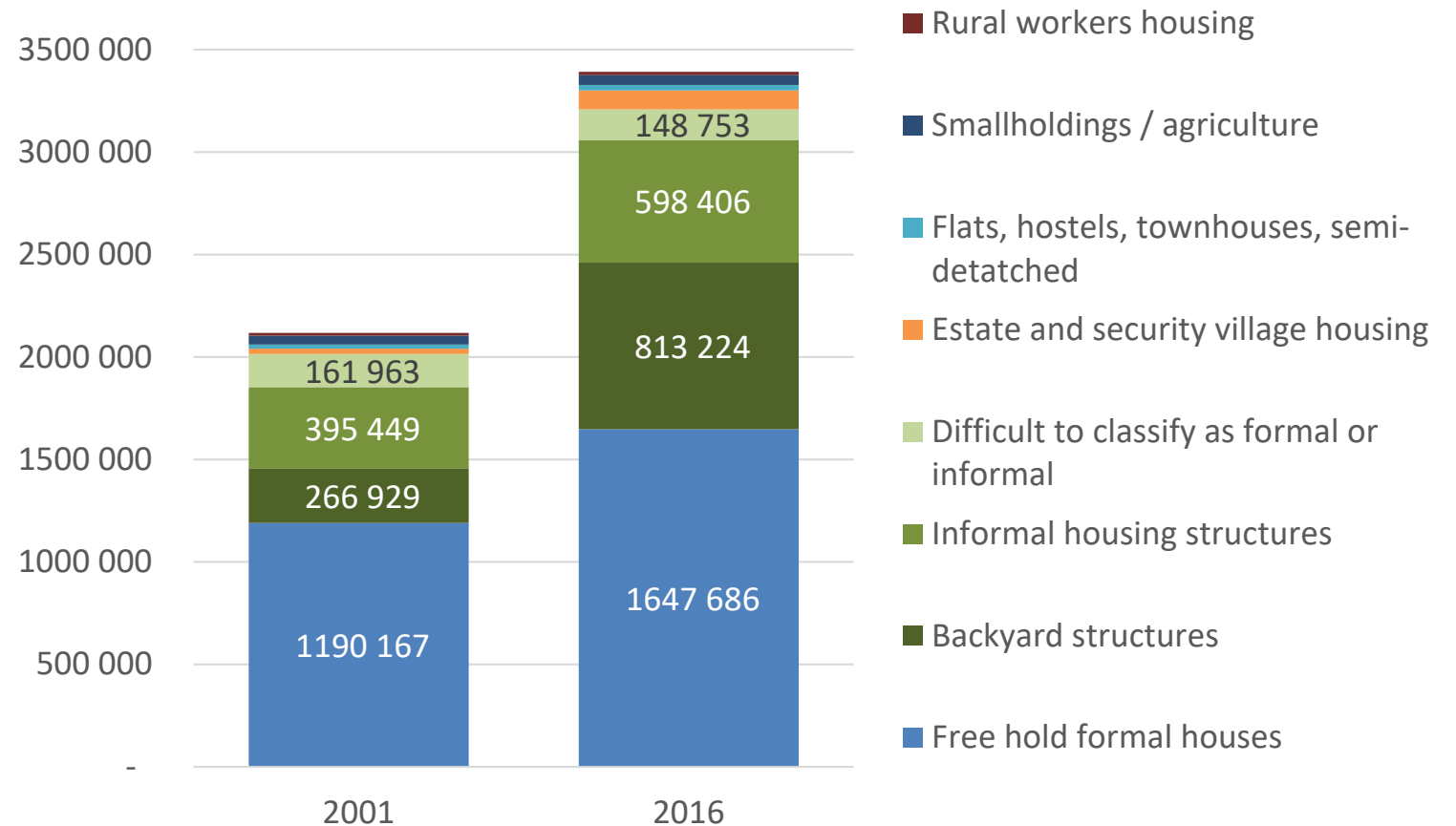
3. Different residential types being developed

- The number of residential buildings increased from:

- 2,1 million in 2001
- 3,4 million in 2016

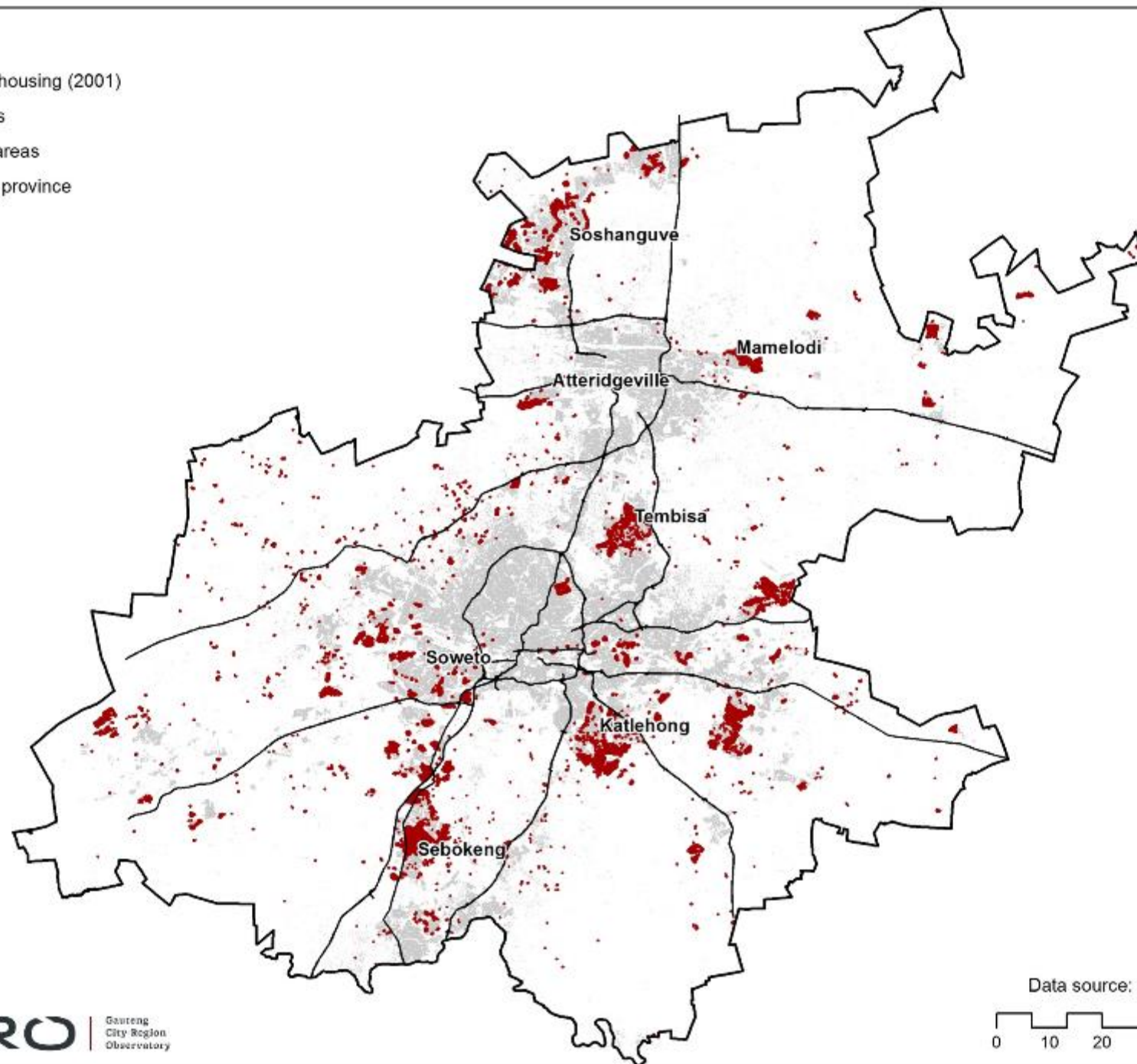
(Note: these are residential *buildings* - one new building might be anything from a block of flats with 200 units to a backyard room)

- There is a diversity of different residential types being developed, but the largest categories are:
 - Free hold housing
 - Backyard dwellings
 - Informal housing in informal settlements
 - Housing in estates (mega-human settlements?)



Legend

- Informal housing (2001)
- Highways
- Built-up areas
- Gauteng province

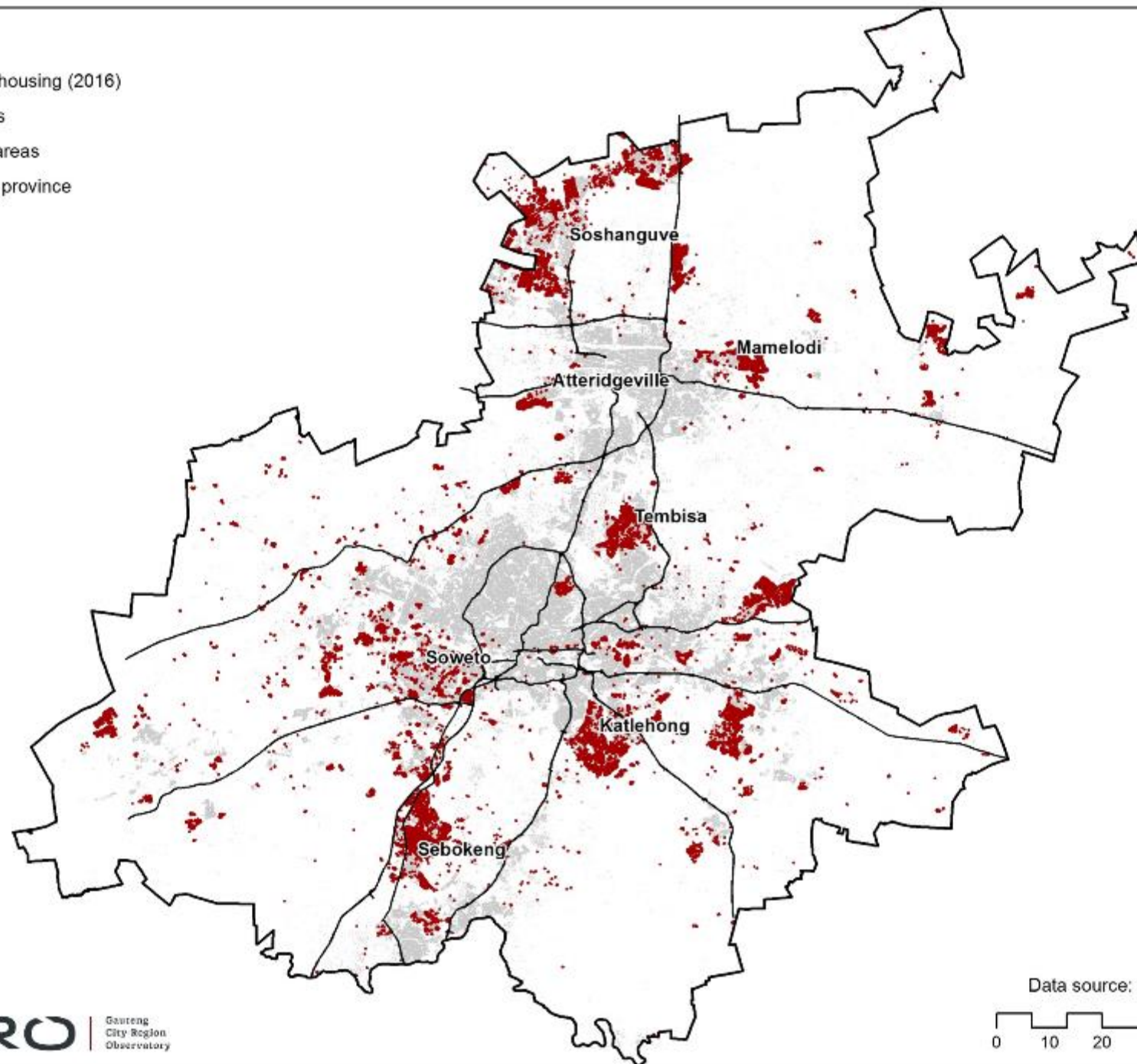


Data source: ESA Landcover (2016)



Legend

- Informal housing (2016)
- Highways
- Built-up areas
- Gauteng province



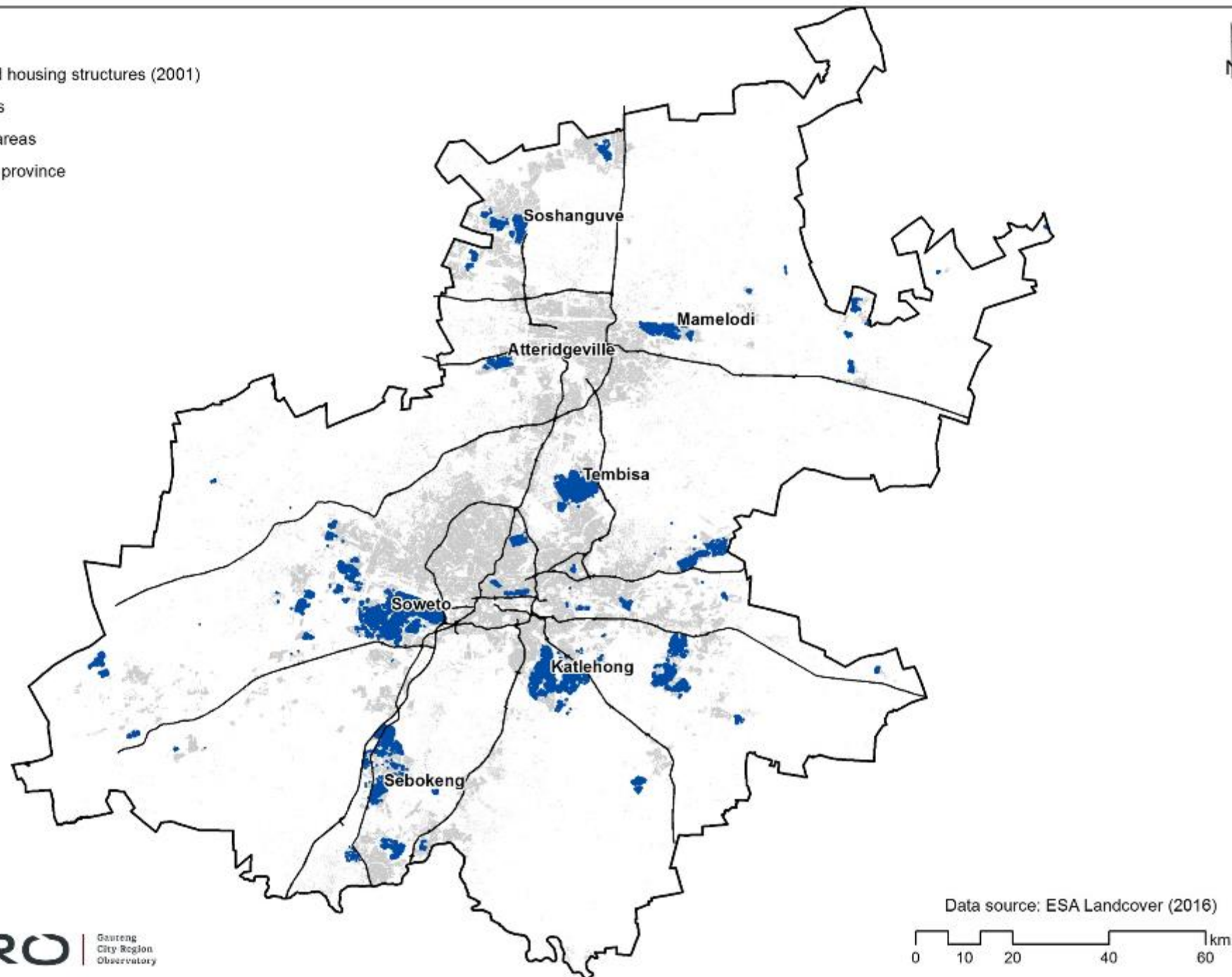


DIEPSLOOT WEST EXT.3

DIEPSLOOT WEST EXT.1

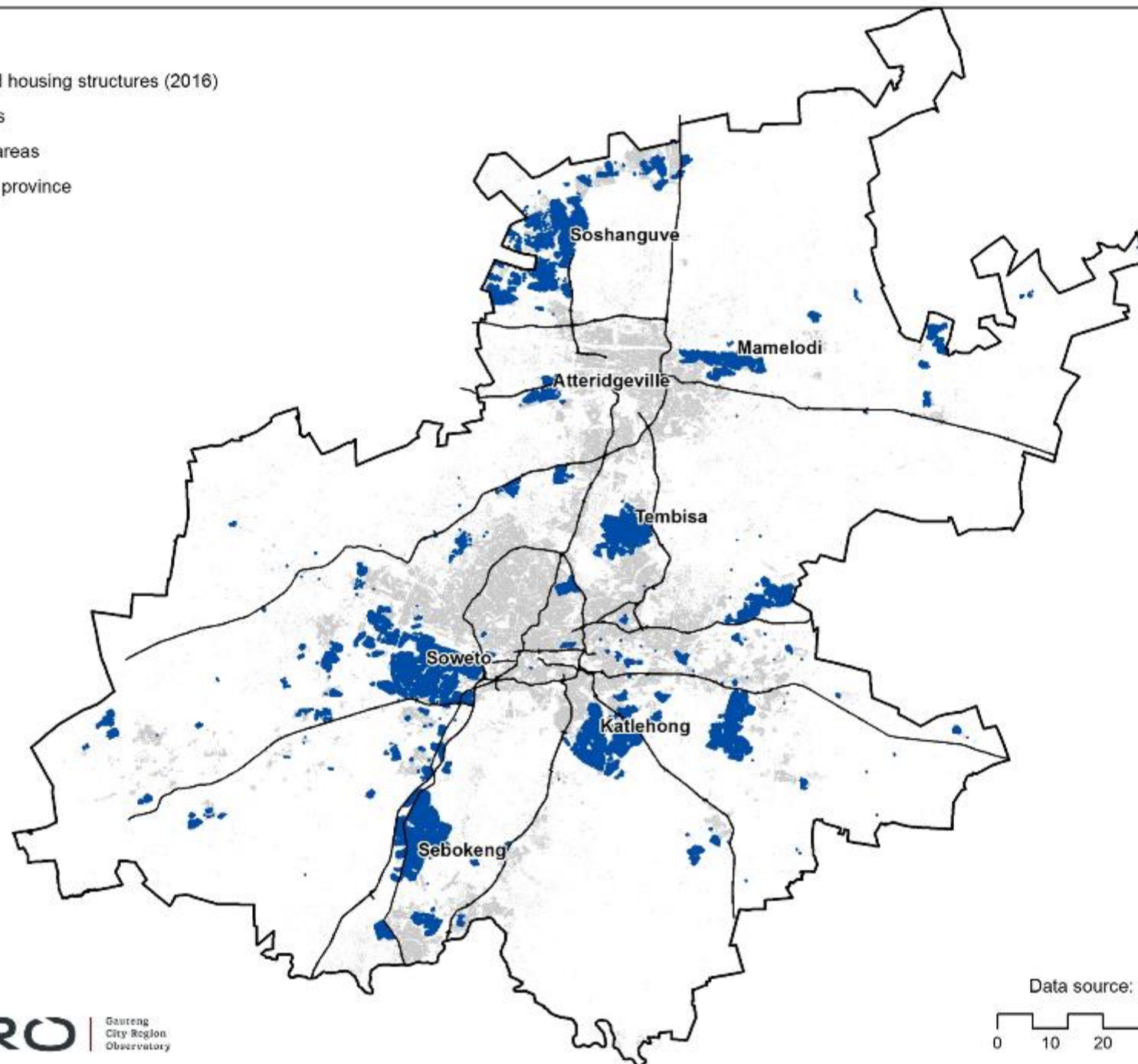
Legend

- Backyard housing structures (2001)
- Highways
- Built-up areas
- Gauteng province



Legend

- Backyard housing structures (2016)
- Highways
- Built-up areas
- Gauteng province



Settlement / housing trends

4. Different types being developed in different places

- In some places different housing types are developing in the same places, together



Settlement / housing trends

4. Different types being developed in different places

- In other places different housing types are being developed in the same places, but separately

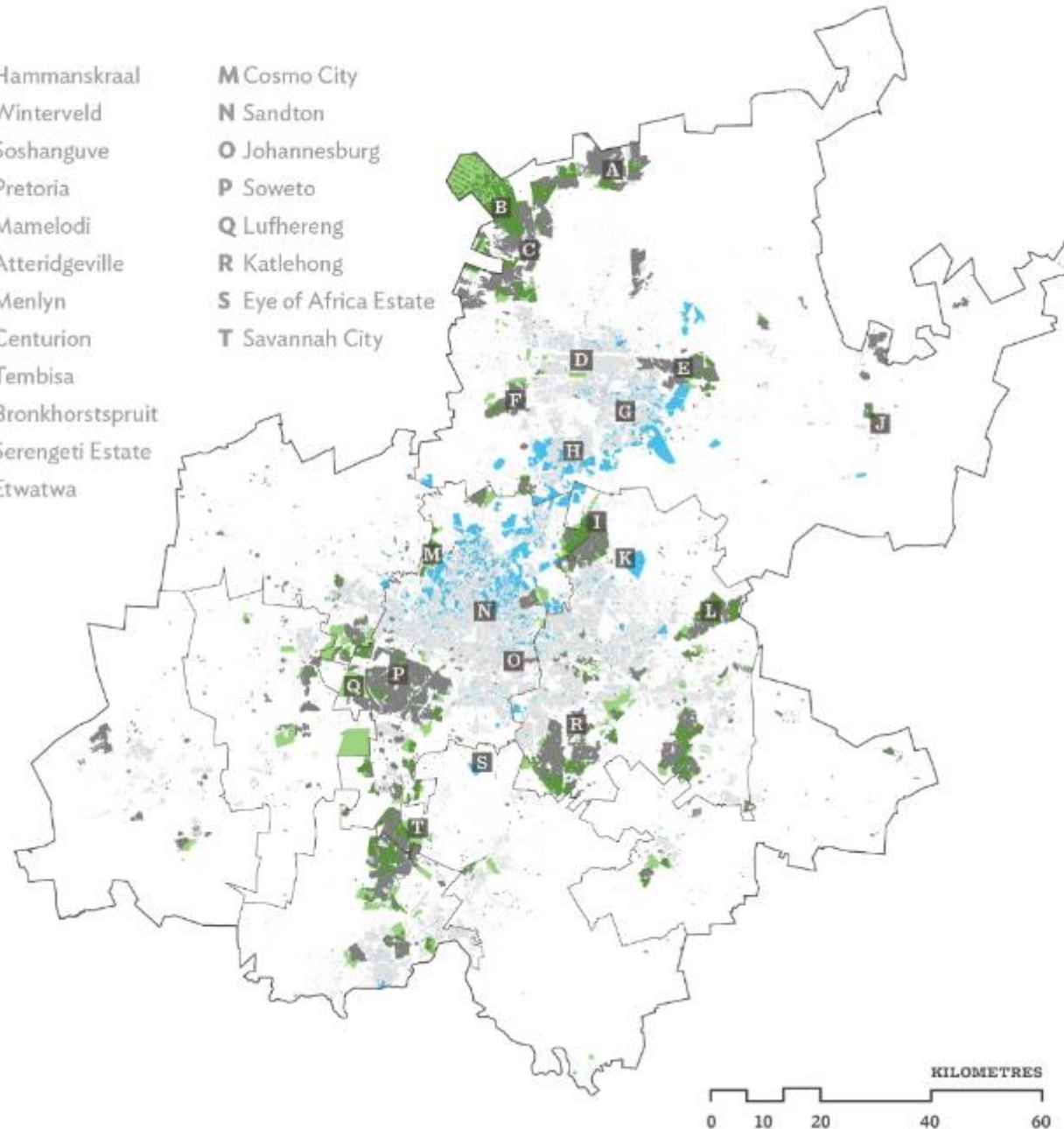


- But the biggest and most important trend is different residential types being developed in different parts of the GCR, pulling an already divided city-region further apart
- Why is this important?

Three residential types in Gauteng

GCR0

A Hammanskraal	M Cosmo City
B Winterveld	N Sandton
C Soshanguve	O Johannesburg
D Pretoria	P Soweto
E Mamelodi	Q Lufhereng
F Atteridgeville	R Katlehong
G Menlyn	S Eye of Africa Estate
H Centurion	T Savannah City
I Tembisa	
J Bronkhorstspuit	
K Serengeti Estate	
L Etwatwa	



An aerial photograph of a suburban housing development. The houses are arranged in a grid-like pattern with winding streets. The roofs are mostly grey and red. The surrounding area is dry and grassy. The text "Social mobility" is overlaid in yellow on the left side of the image.

Social mobility

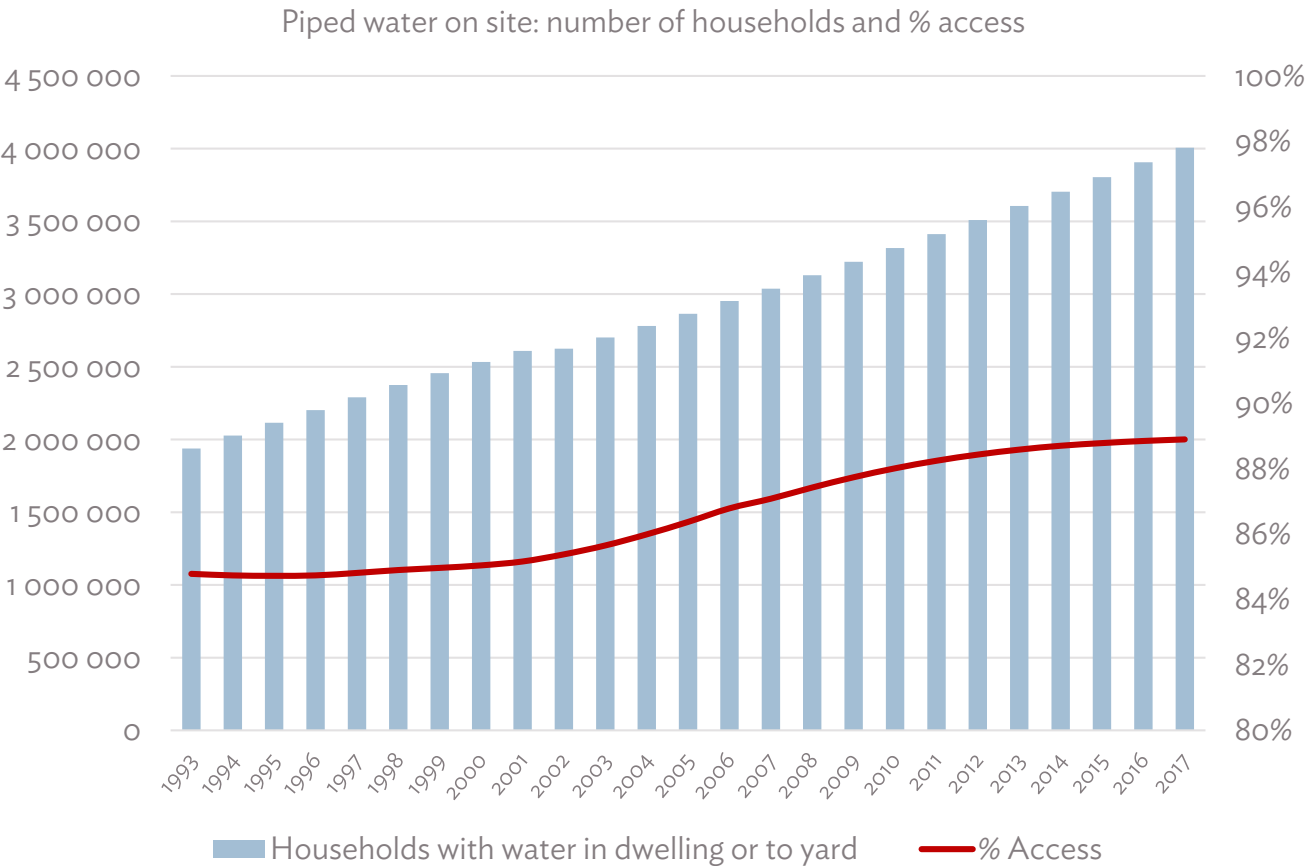
Social mobility

Increasing service access over time creates a basic fabric for social & economic inclusion

The connective tissue of infrastructure networks empowers people and creates the conditions for economic inclusivity, which in turn is an urban economic growth driver

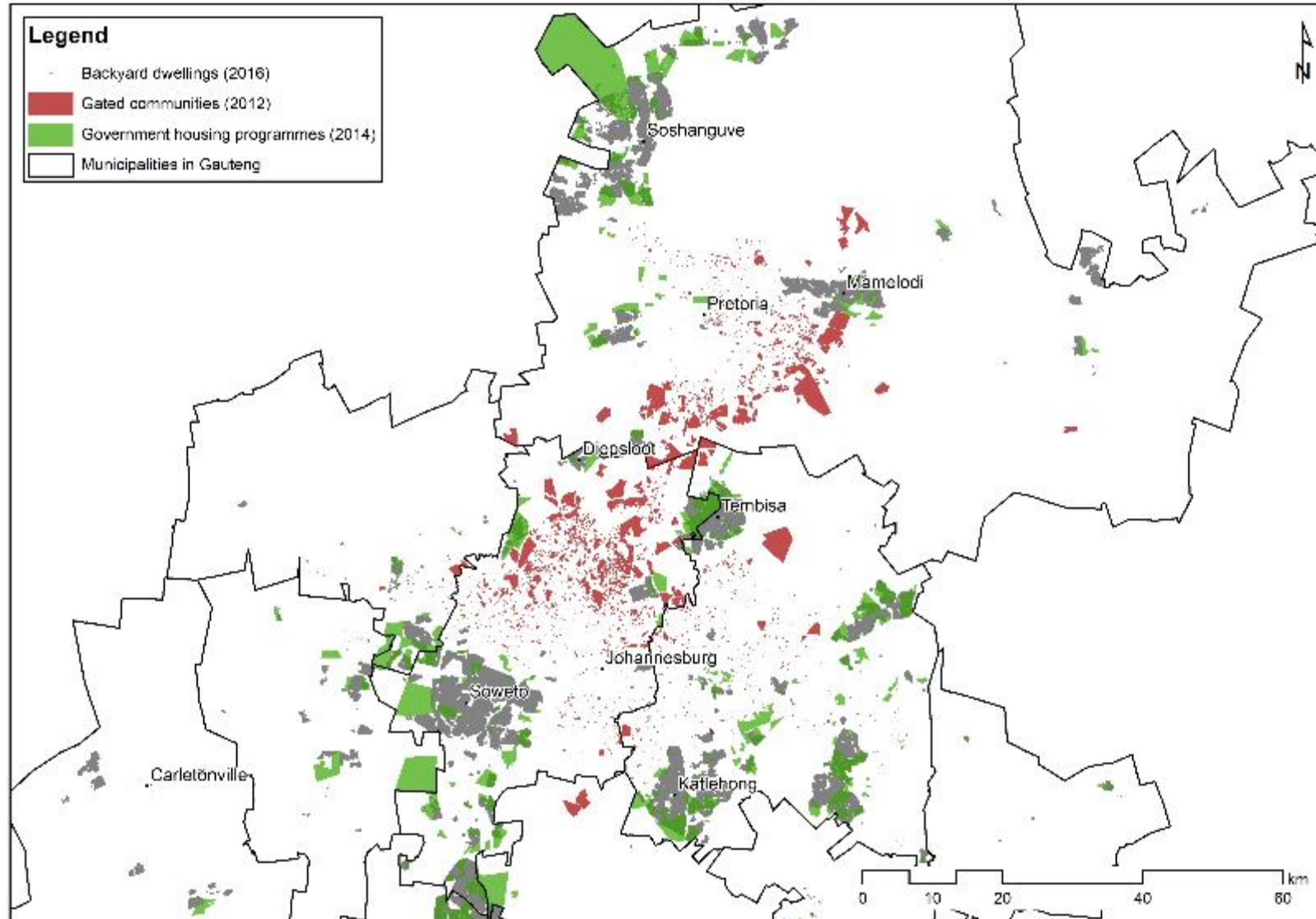
(Hausman, 2014)

Growth indicators	Compound annual change
Number of households	2.9%
Total population	2.7%
Water on site	3.1%
Flush toilet on site	3.0%
Weekly refuse removal	3.1%
Electricity for lighting	3.1%



Social mobility

But while progress i.t.o services, divided settlements limit the prospects for social mobility



(Although this is certainly to exaggerate for effect) by and large our settlements are being produced and reproduced in a way that exacerbates spatial inequality

Raising the question: When we plan for housing in order to facilitate social mobility what can we do differently?

Social mobility

We are not eliminating class-race based inequalities – in effect we may be worsening this

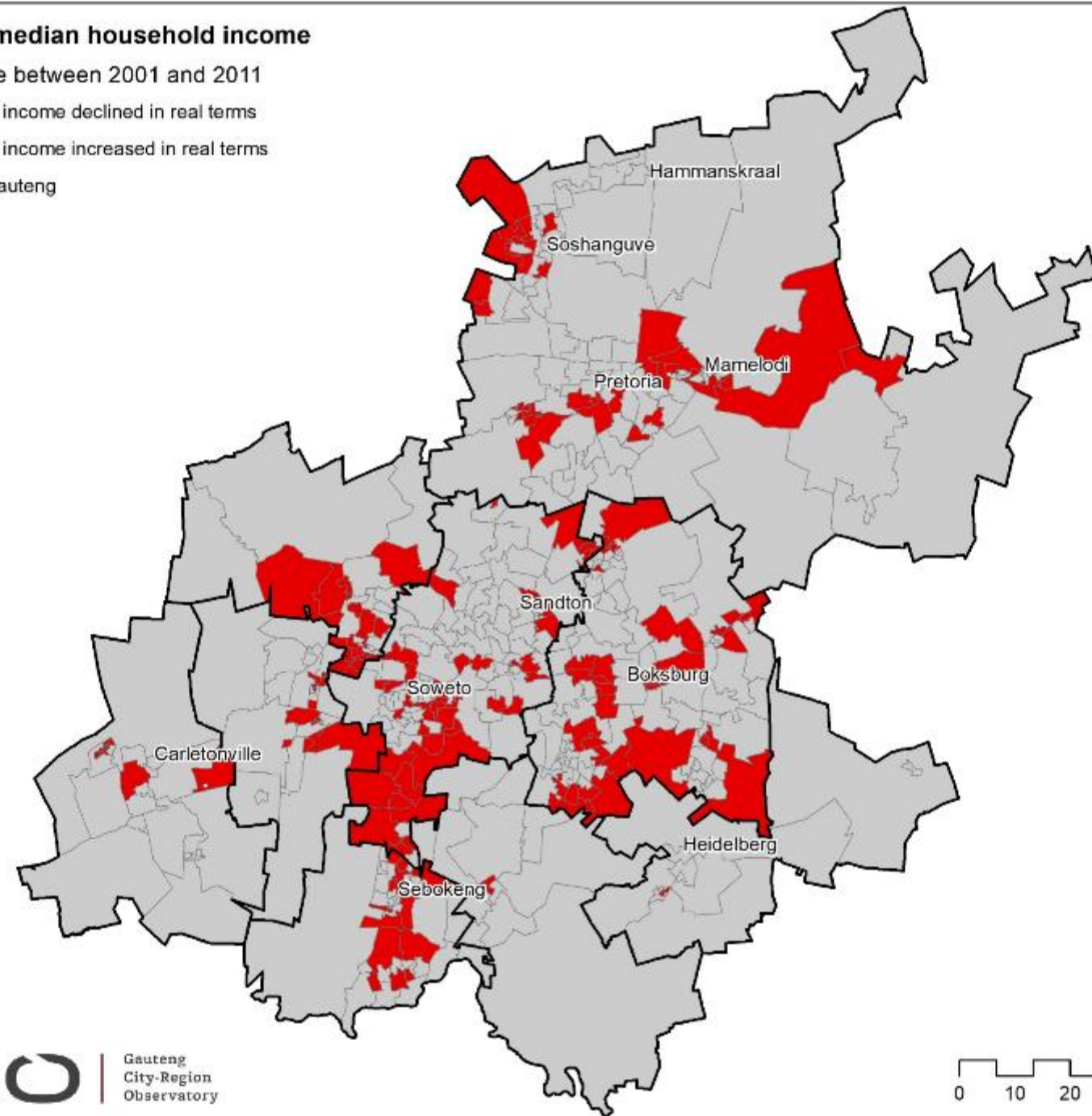
	% in each class	% African	% white
R1 - R800: Chronically poor	10%	96%	1%
R401 - R3 200: Minimum wage	33%	94%	2%
R3 201 - R12 800: Living wage	29%	86%	8%
R12 801 - R25 600: Lower middle class	12%	64%	25%
R25 601 - R51 200: Upper middle class	9%	40%	47%
R51 201 - more: Wealthy professional / elite	7%	24%	62%
TOTAL	100%	79%	15%

* Coloured and Indians/Asian not included in this simplified view

Inflation adjusted median household income

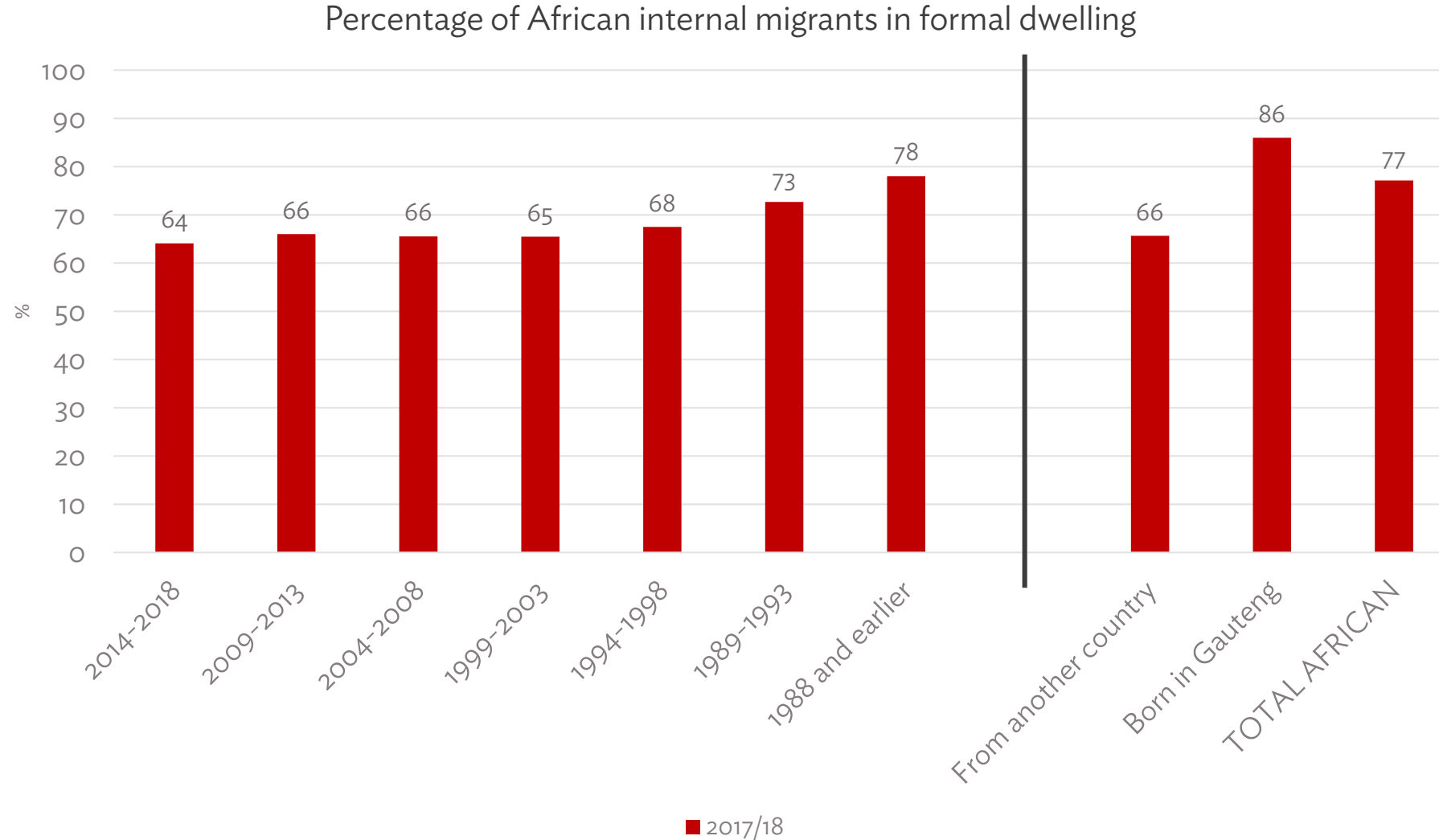
Real growth or decline between 2001 and 2011

- Median household income declined in real terms
- Median household income increased in real terms
- Municipalities in Gauteng



Social mobility

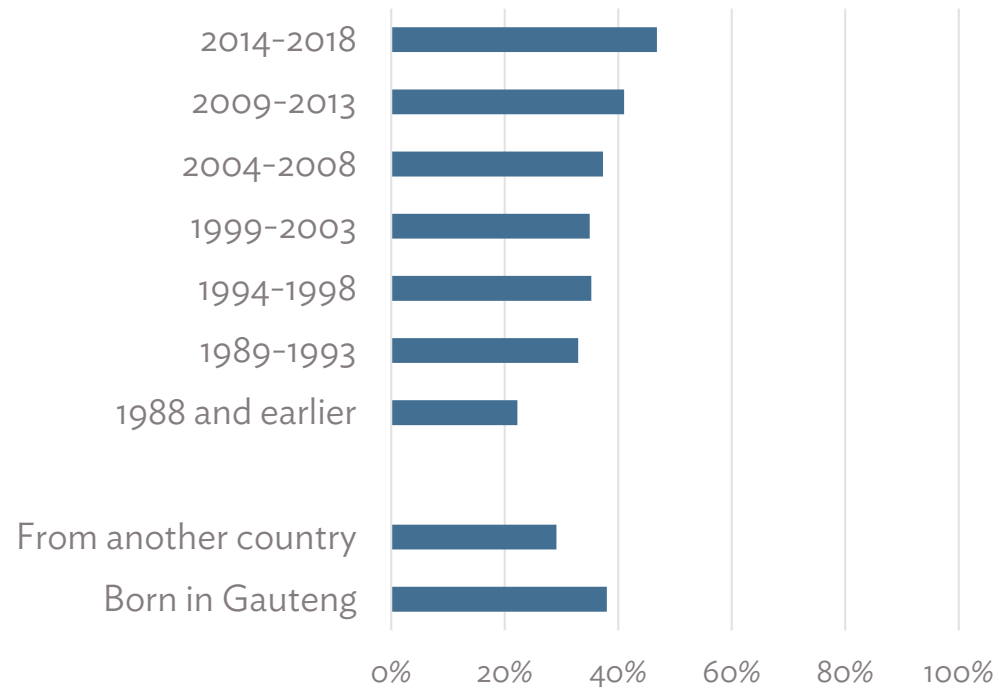
The prospects of migrants: Own analysis using QoL 2017/18 data



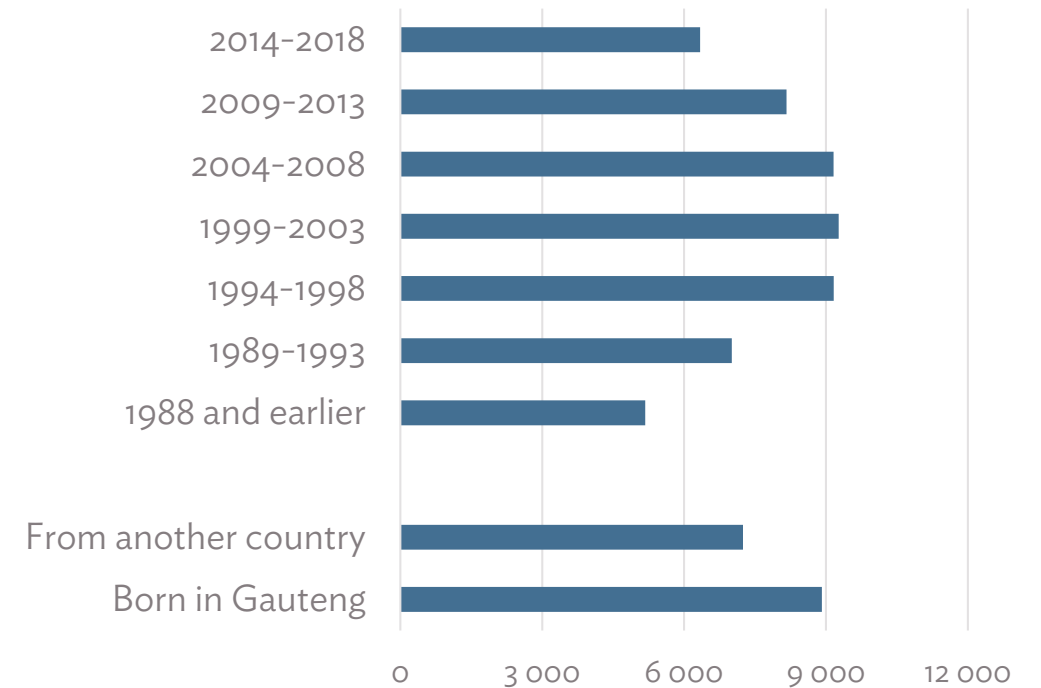
Social mobility

The prospects of migrants: Own analysis using QoL 2017/18 data

% unemployed & looking for work



Imputed mean income (R/hsh/mnth)



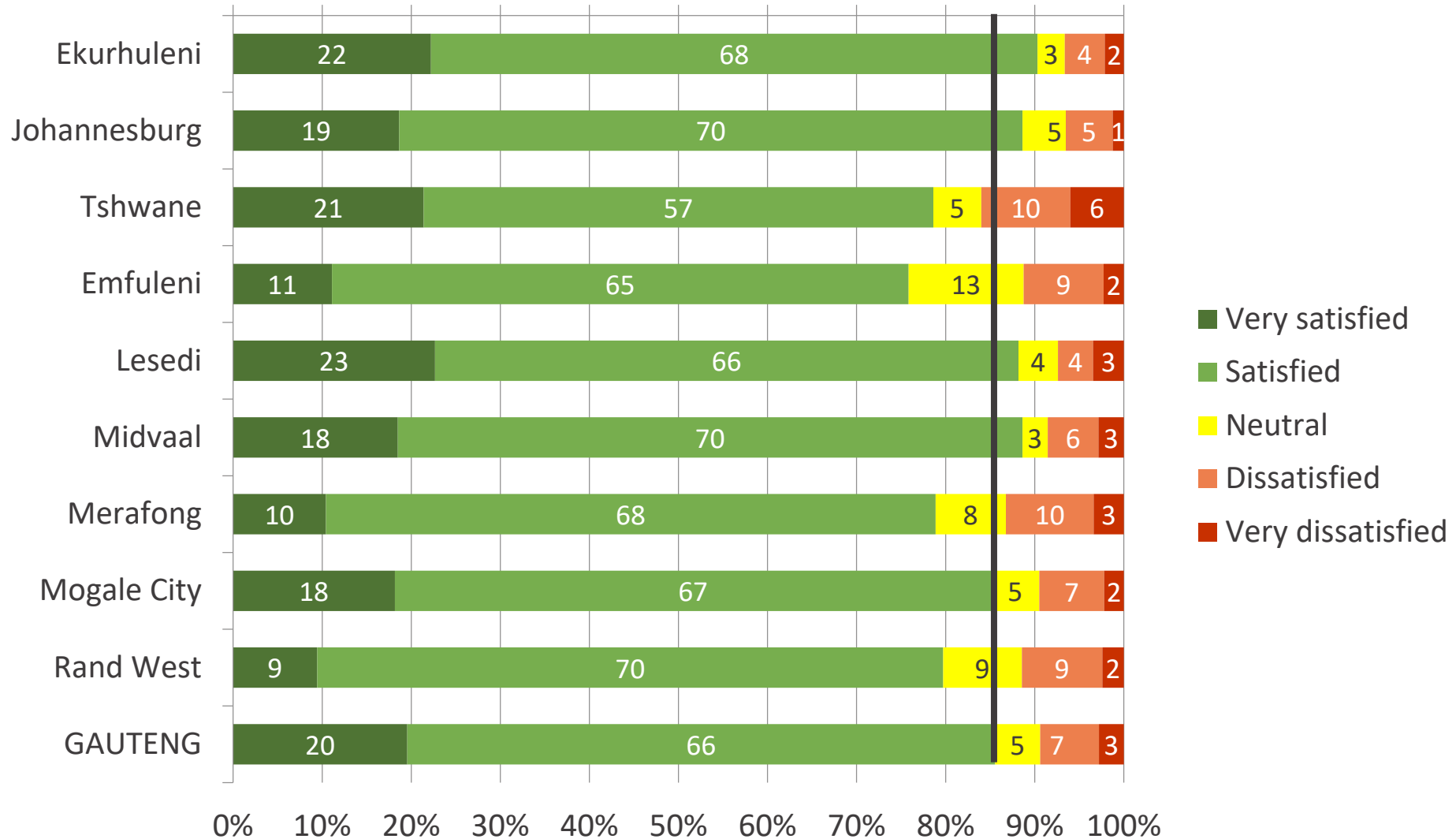


**Key governance
issues**

**(Quality of Life
Survey 5
2017/18)**

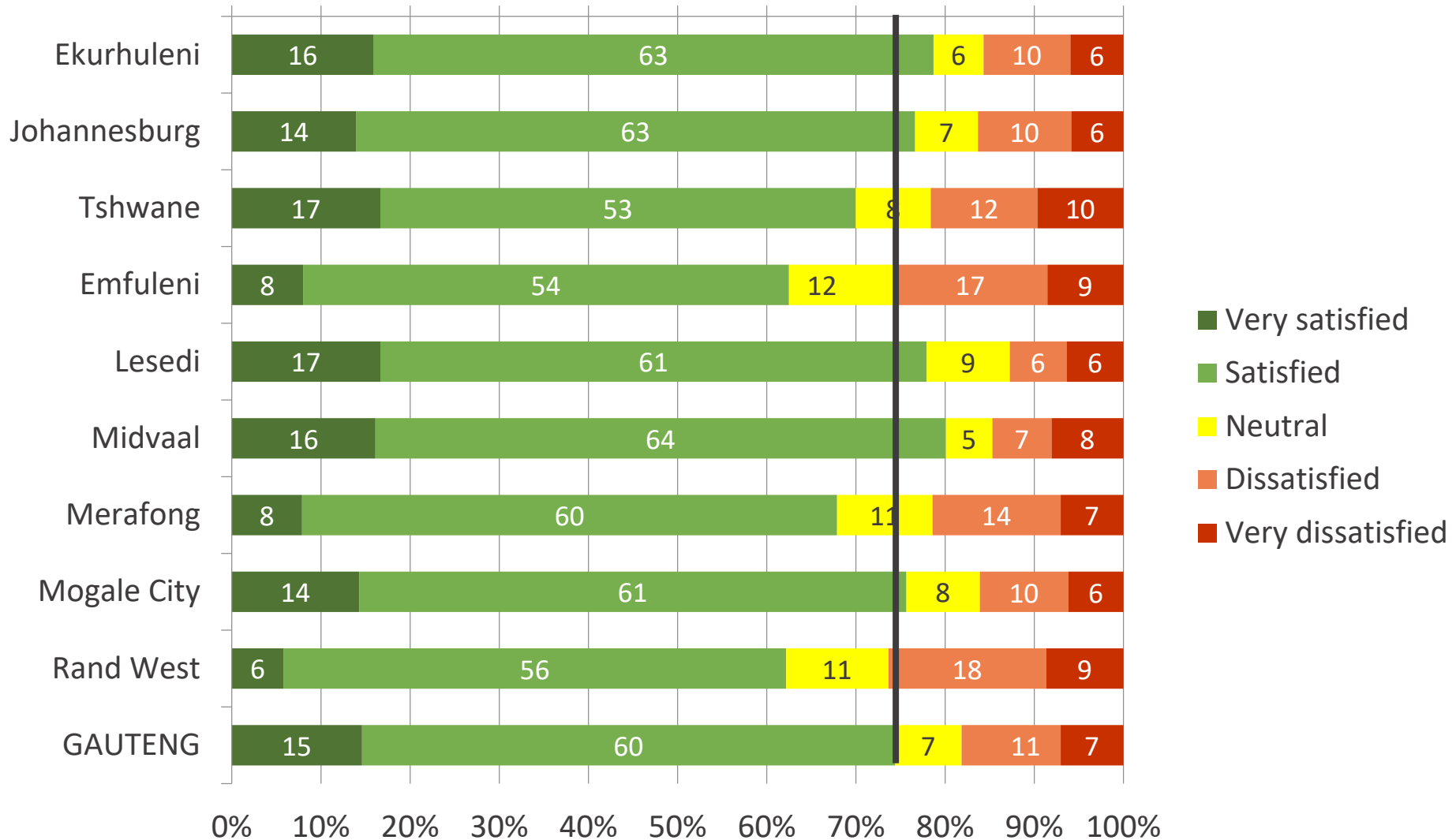
Satisfaction with services

Water services (2017/18)



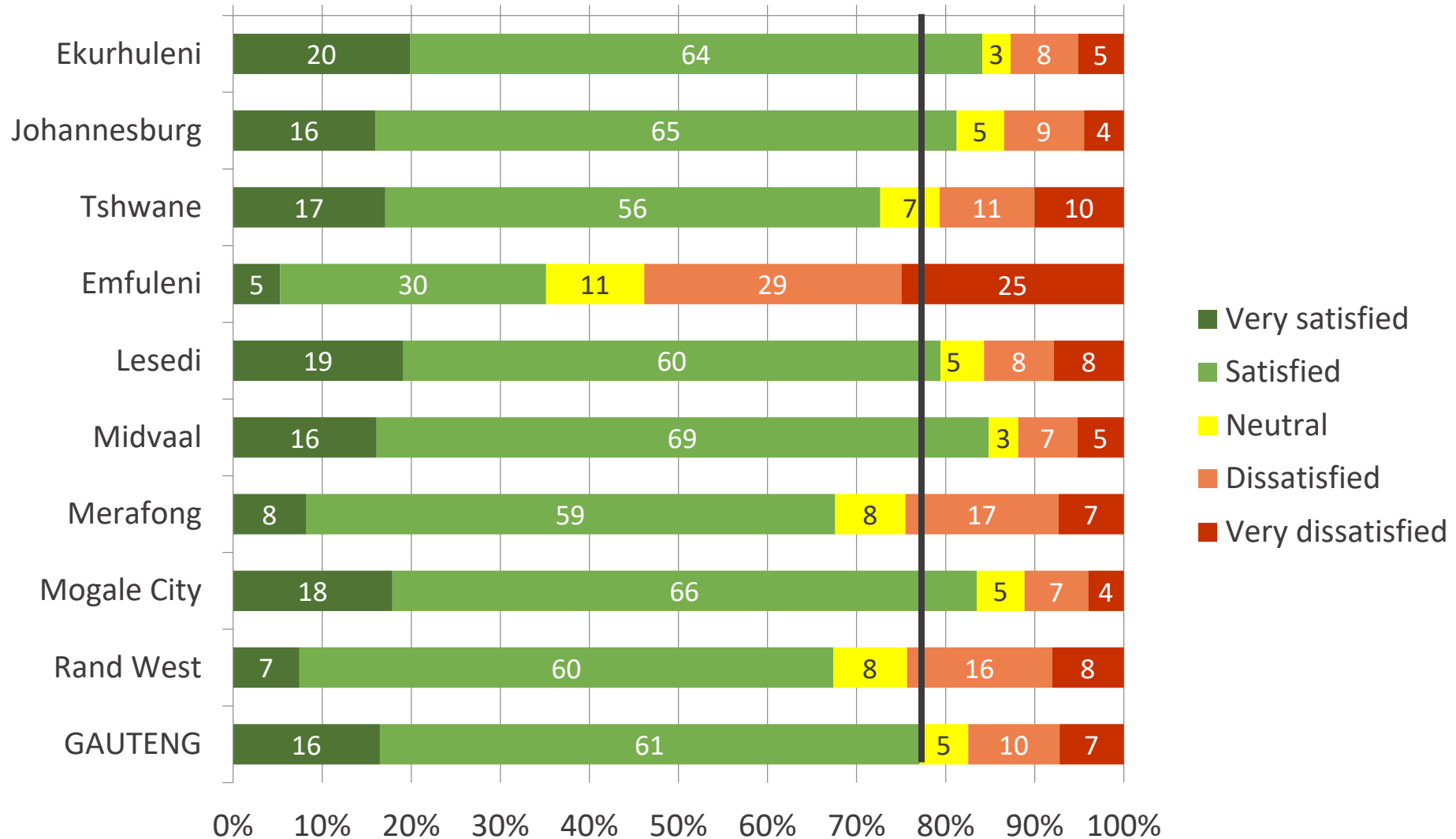
Satisfaction with services

Sanitation (2017/18)



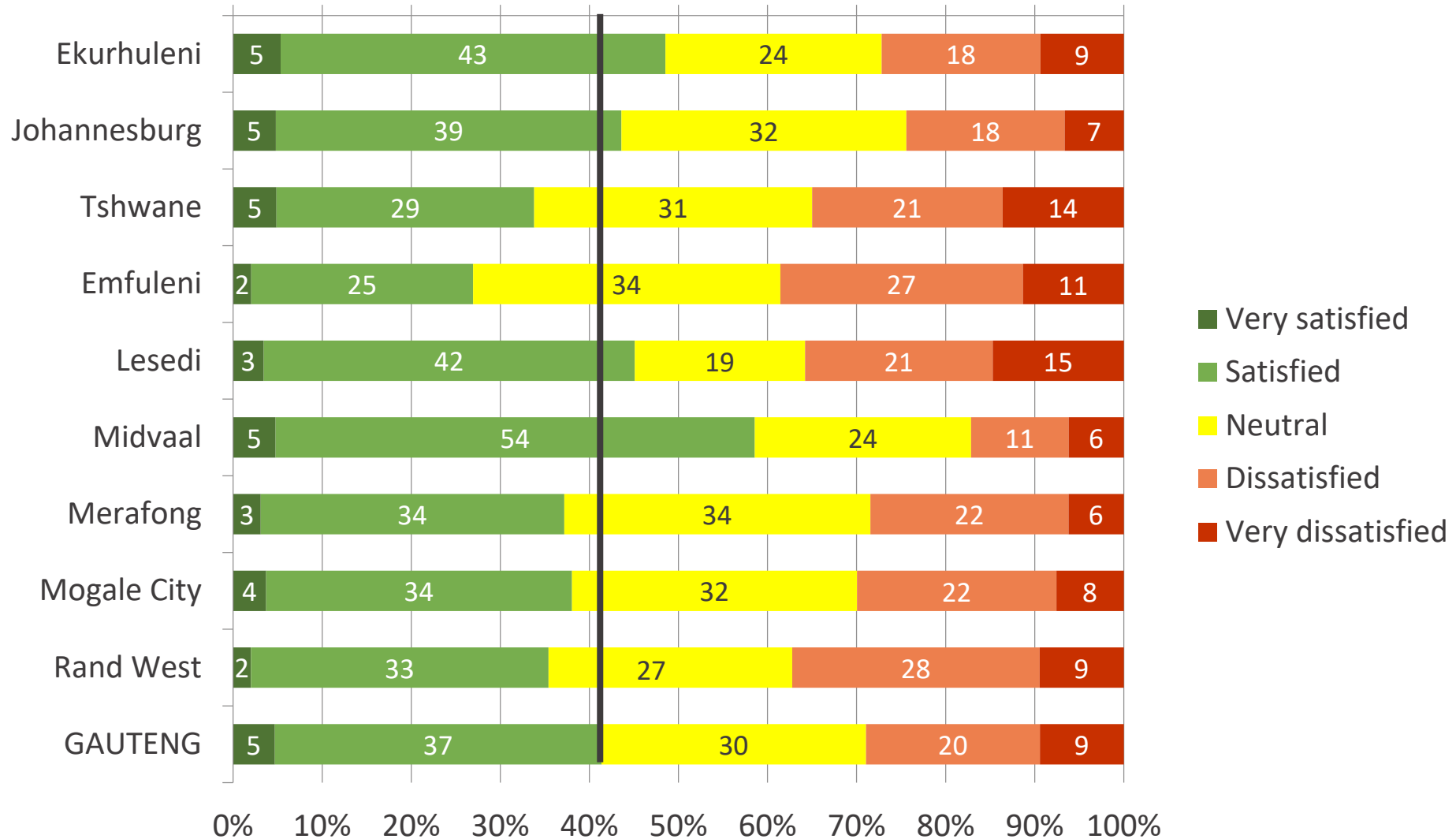
Satisfaction with services

Waste removal (2017/18)



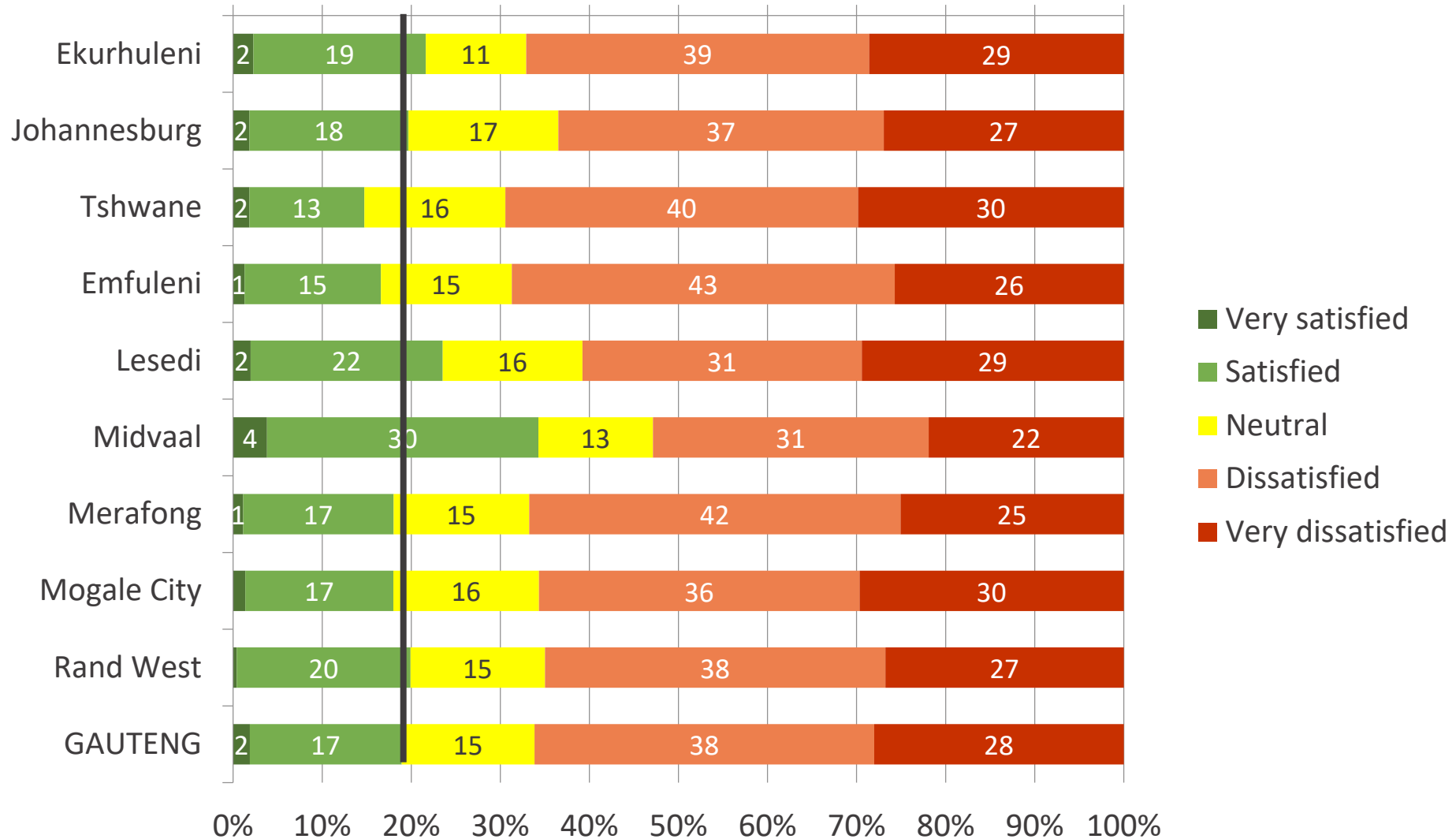
Satisfaction with services

Cost of municipal services (2017/18)



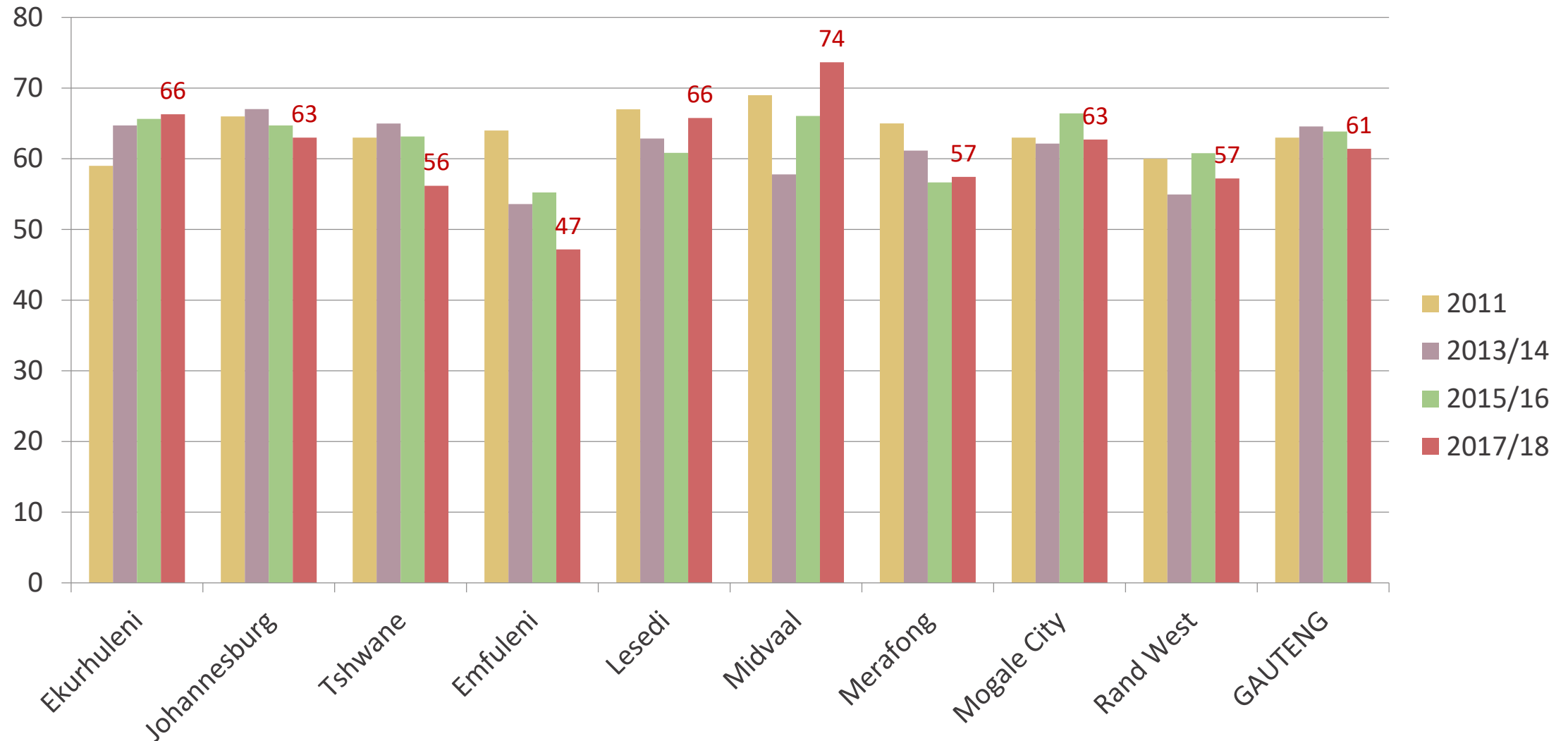
Satisfaction with services

Government initiatives to grow economy (2017/18)



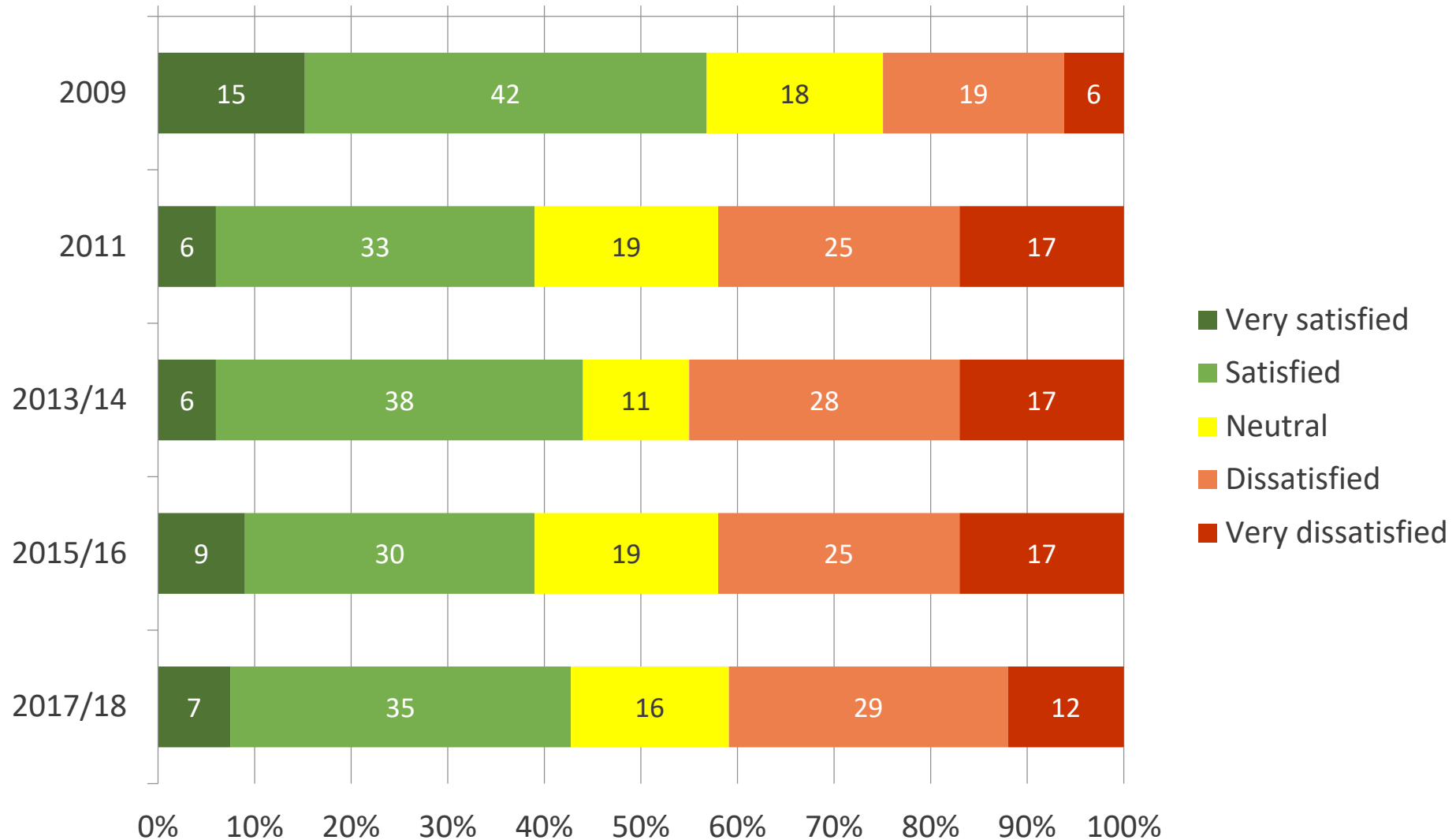
Satisfaction with services

Index of 10 services - % satisfied: 2011-18 (dwelling, water, sanitation, energy, waste, roads, safety, health, cost, billing)



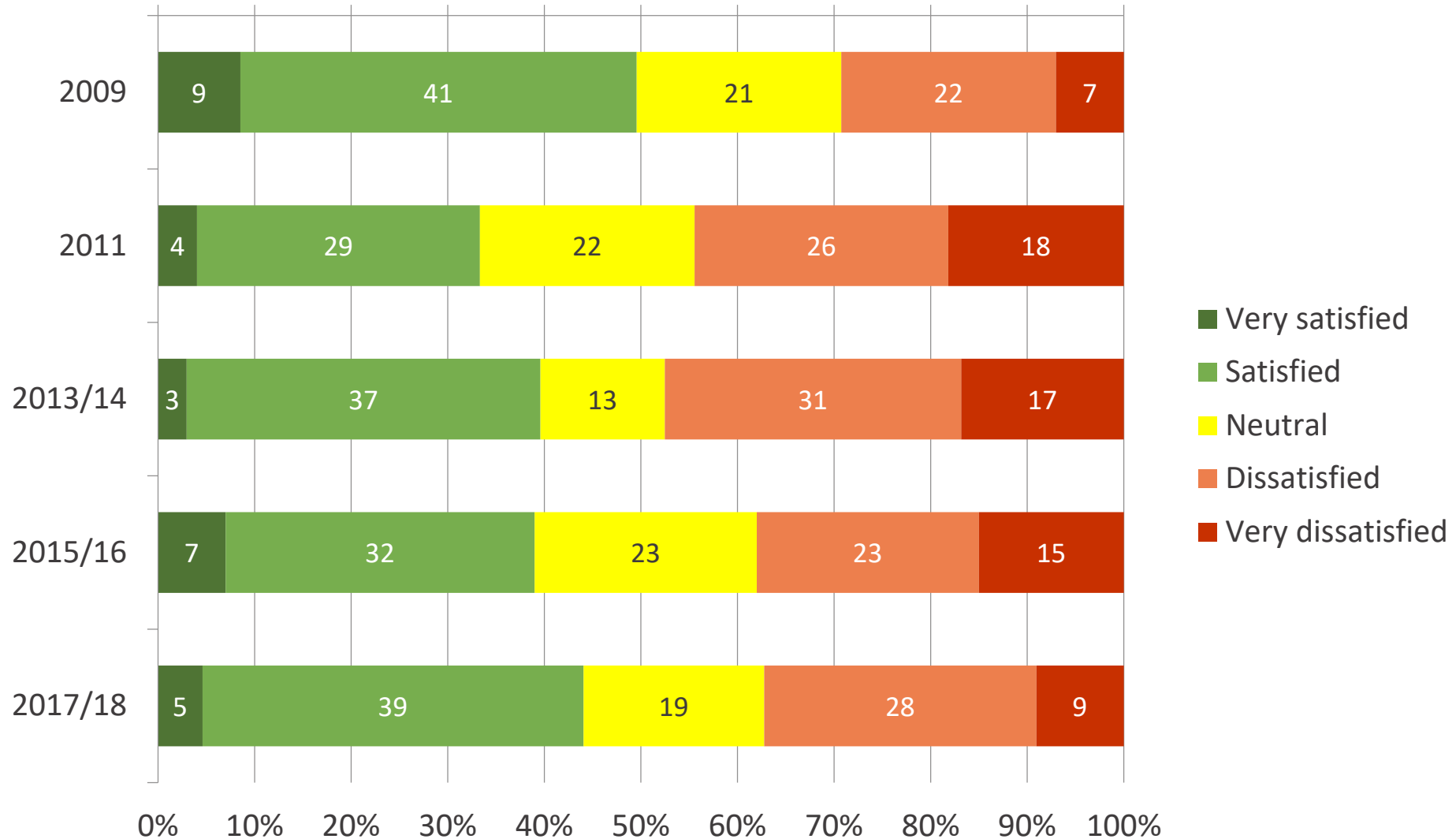
Satisfaction with government

Gauteng – Satisfied with national government: 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017



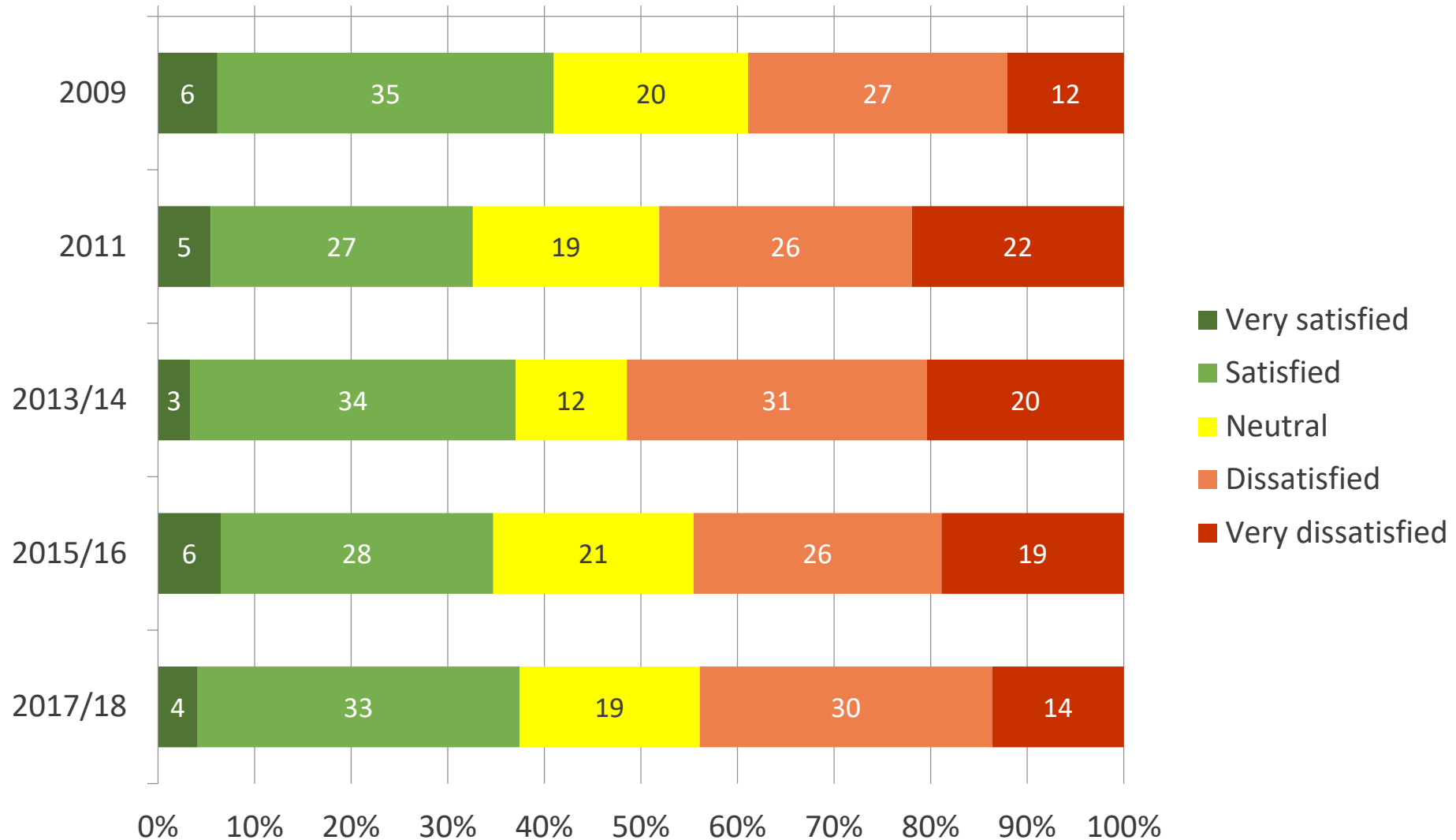
Satisfaction with government

Gauteng – Satisfied with provincial government: 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017



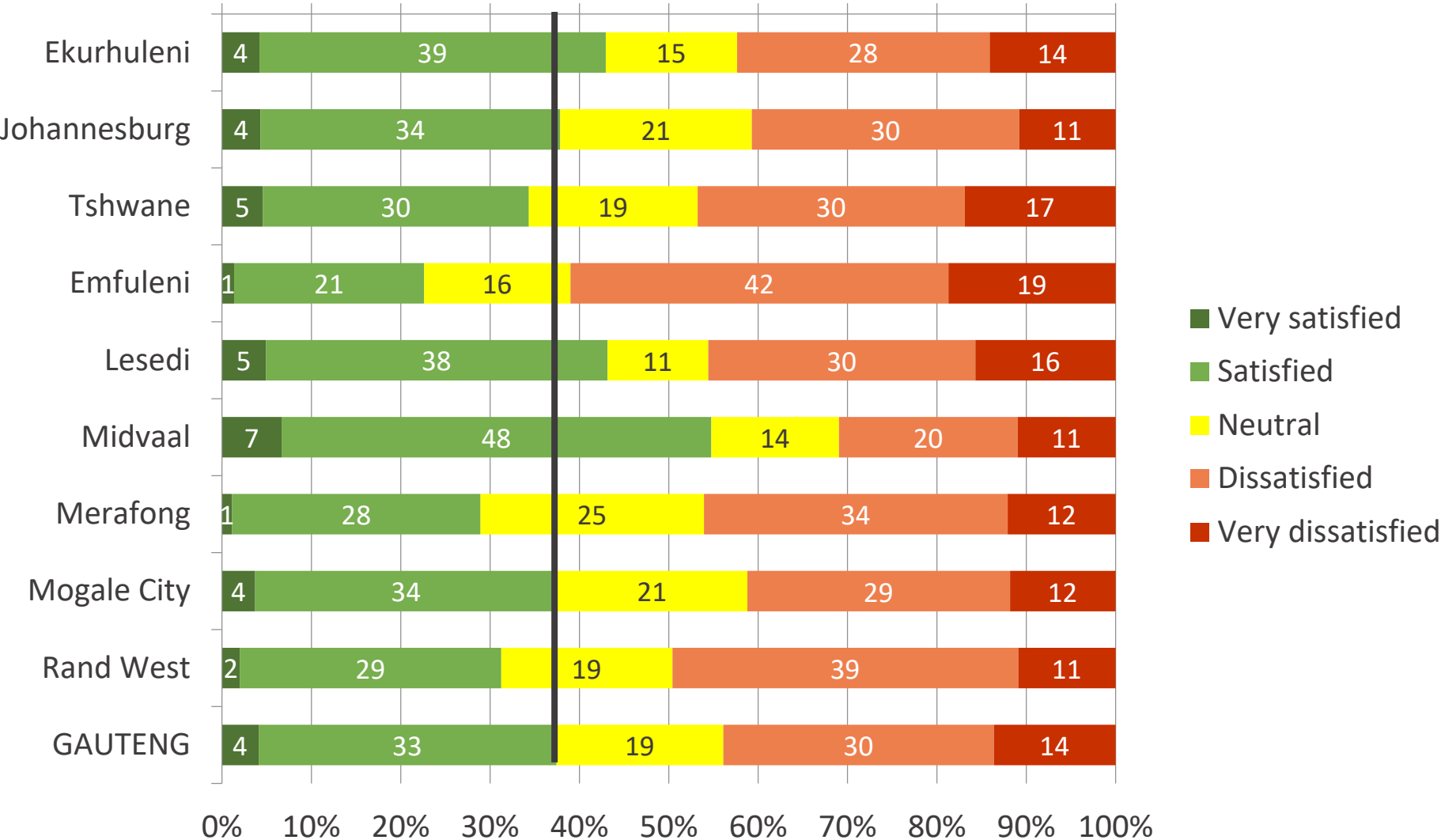
Satisfaction with government

Gauteng – Satisfied with local government: 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017



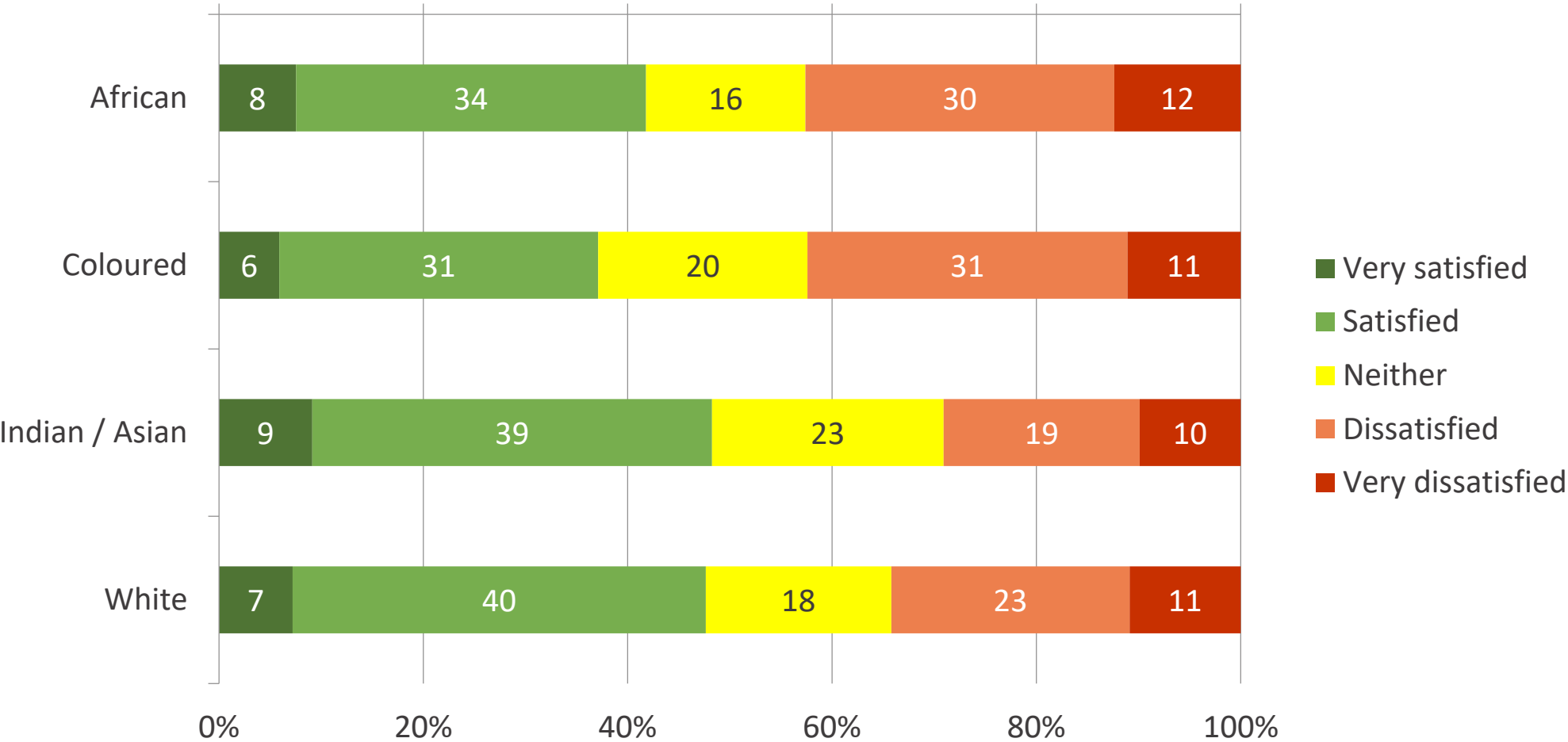
Satisfaction with government

Satisfaction with local government: 2017/18



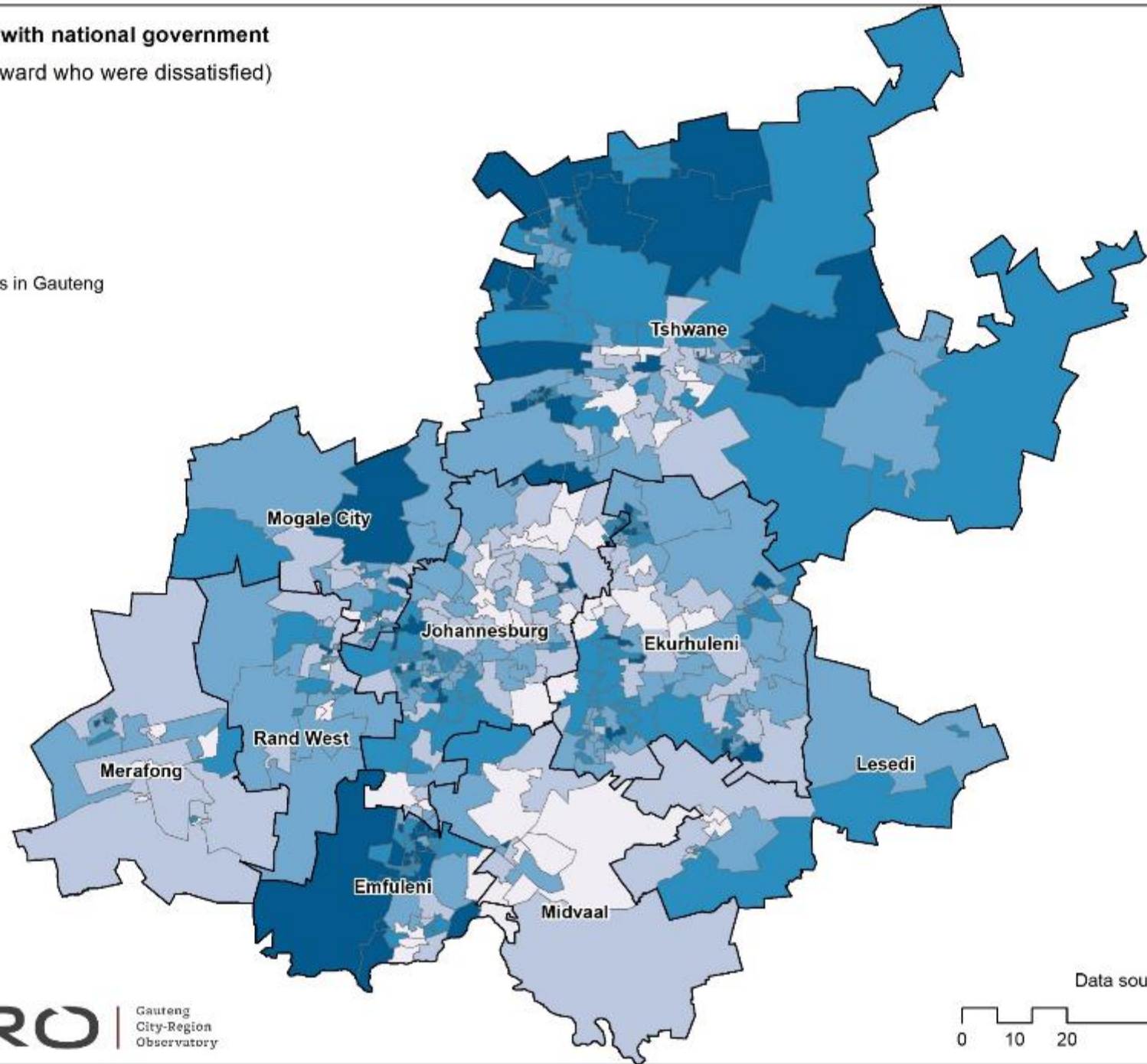
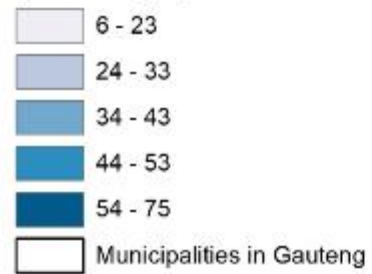
Understanding government dissatisfaction

Race: Satisfaction with national government: 2017/18 (Gauteng)



Dissatisfaction with national government

(percentage per ward who were dissatisfied)

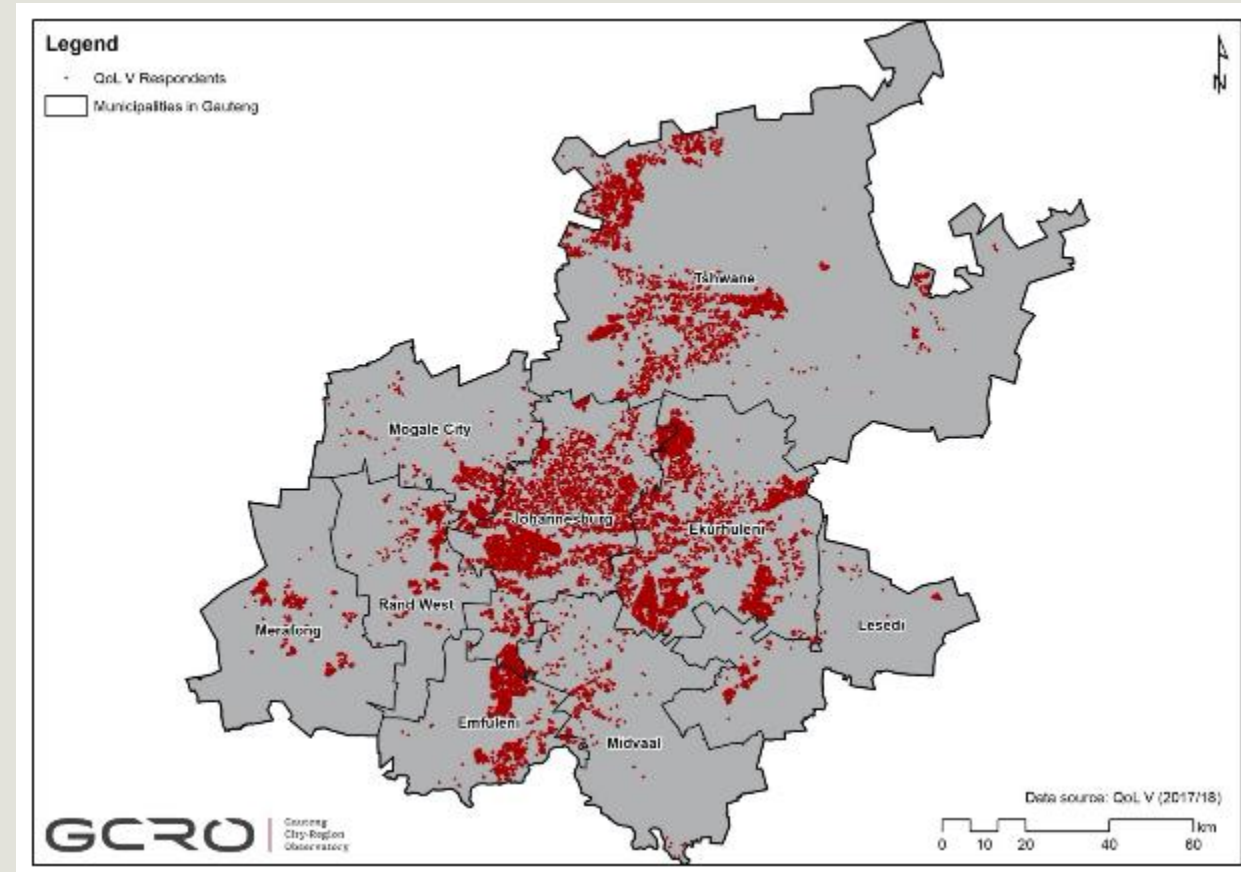


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Quality of Life 2020-21 Survey

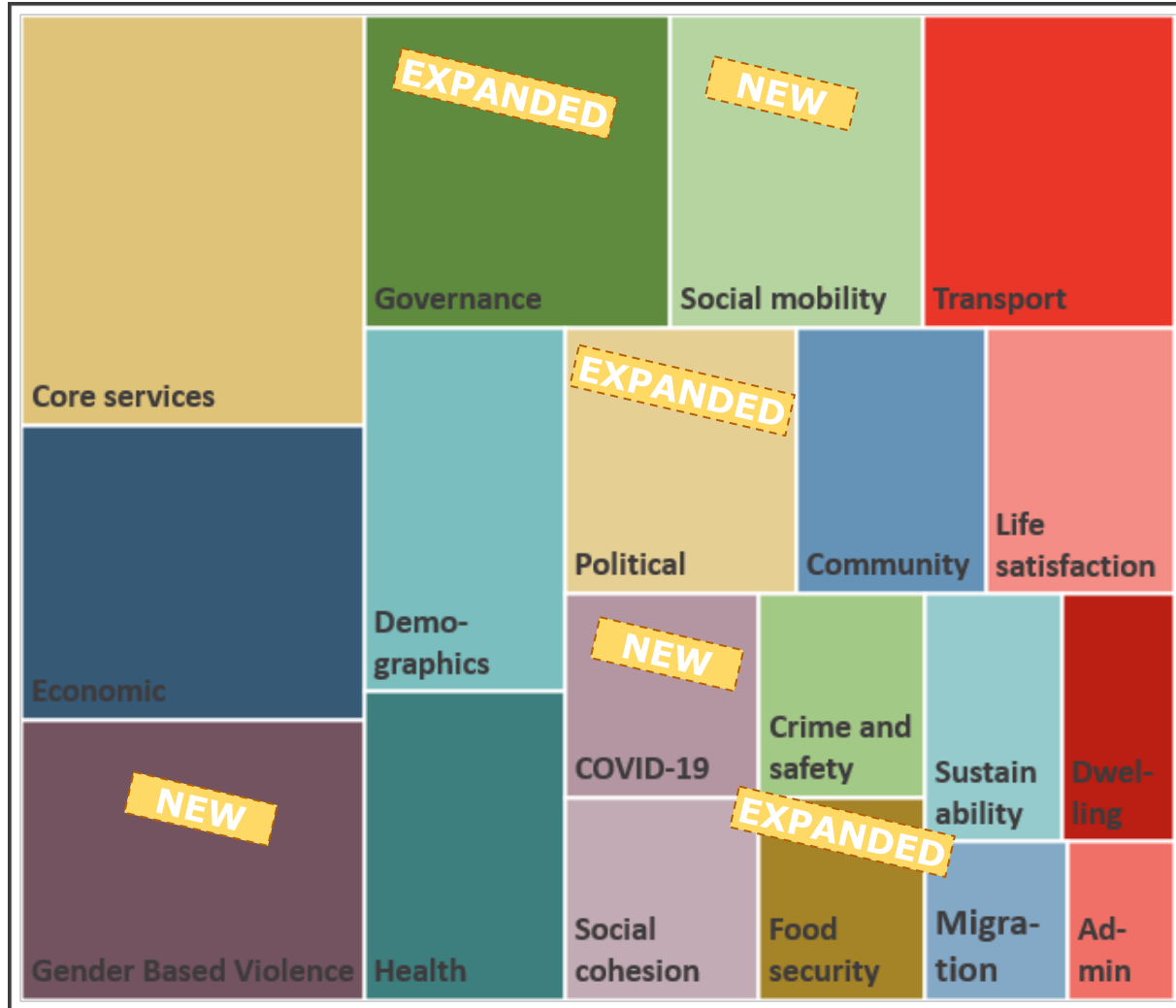
- **Six biennial iterations**
- **248 questions** relating to dwelling; migration; health; income and employment; transport; opinions on government, social fabric, and well-being etc.
- Geospatial sampling using residential building data and GPS enabled tablets to locate interview target points
- Minimum of **30 interviews per ward**
- Adult (18+) respondent in household randomly selected to do interview
- Part individual survey and part household survey
- A rich dataset with an almost infinite number of possibilities for analysis and visualisation



Quality of Life 2020/21 Survey

What to expect from QoL VI

Themes in the QoL VI dataset



Funding for the survey has been received from:

- The Gauteng Provincial Government
- The City of Ekurhuleni
- The City of Johannesburg
- The City of Tshwane





Quality of Life Survey 6 2020/21

To be launched by Premier David Makhura
on 6 September 2021
Visit our website www.gcro.ac.za to register



Thank you!

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