

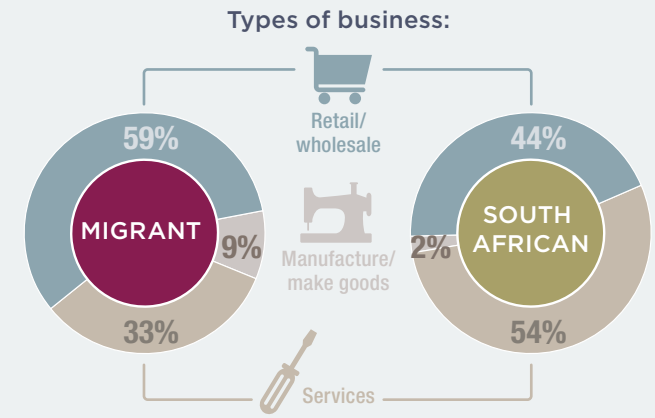
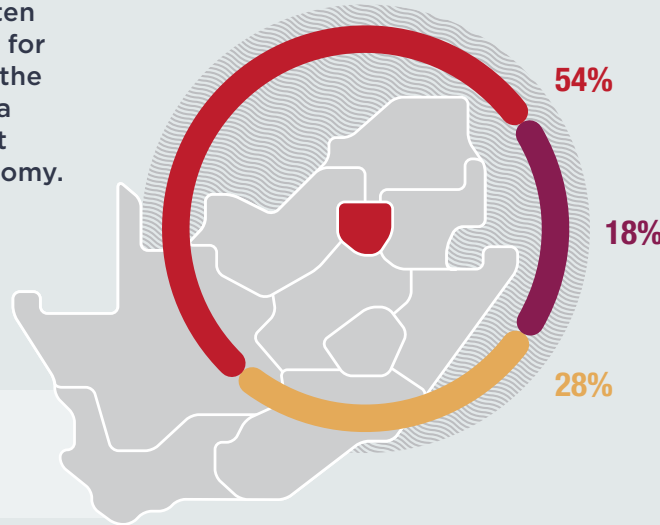
25 Xenophobic attacks – are migrants the only victims?

The data is from: (1) a survey of 1,567 informal sector entrepreneurs in Gauteng and (2) the 2013 GCRO QoL III survey which interviewed 27,490 people in Gauteng

Cross border migrants in the informal sector are often the target of xenophobic attacks. Attacking people for who they are is wrong. It is also shortsighted when the same people contribute to our economy. These data identify some of the ways that cross border migrant entrepreneurs contribute to the South African economy.

We need to stop assuming that the informal sector is dominated by people from beyond South Africa's borders. Of the 1,979 respondents who owned businesses in the informal sector in the 2013 GCRO QoL III survey:

- 54% had been born in Gauteng
- 28% had moved to Gauteng from elsewhere in South Africa
- 18% had moved to Gauteng from another country



Entrepreneurs in the informal sector don't just run spaza shops

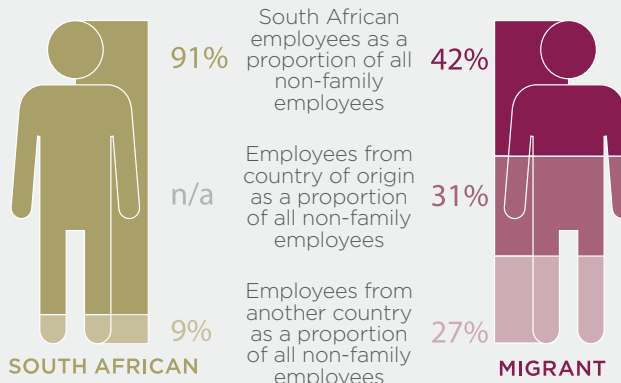
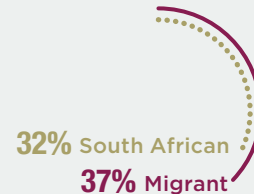
Paying rent to South Africans

Cross border migrant entrepreneurs contribute to South African households by paying rent:



Employ people in the business (full or part-time)

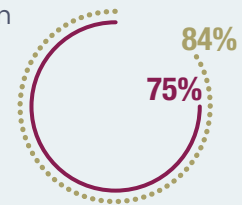
Cross border migrants are more likely to employ people in their business and when they do are likely to employ more people than South African entrepreneurs.



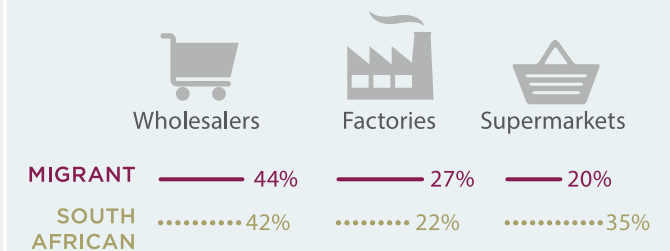
Ratio of entrepreneurs interviewed : number of non-family employees
 1:0.9 (South African) vs 1:1.5 (Migrant)

Tax and the formal sector

Migrant entrepreneurs are often accused of avoiding tax but 75% of cross border migrants and 84% of South Africans interviewed earned under the SARS personal income and small business tax thresholds.



VAT and other taxes are paid by the majority of entrepreneurs regardless of nationality as they use formal sector outlets to source the supplies for their businesses.



www.gcro.ac.za
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Please visit the www.gcro.ac.za for more information on the Xenophobic attacks – are migrants the only victims?