



SAPRIN contributes to the “Migration Profile Report of South Africa, 2023”

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SAPRIN contributed to the recently released (26 March) *Migration Profile Report of South Africa, 2023*. The [Statistics South Africa \(Stats SA\)](#) report covers international and internal migration and incorporates data from a range of government ministries. It also includes official statistics from censuses and national surveys.

The Migration Profile, described by Stats SA as a first for South Africa, is aimed at enhancing policy coherence, evidence based policymaking and mainstreaming migration into South Africa’s development plans.

The Migration Profile was prepared by members of the inter-ministerial Technical Working Group, in close collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders and with technical support from the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#).

“Migration is a topical issue in South Africa and the world, especially international migration, and its relationship with urbanisation. The issues are somewhat divisive, and opinions get expressed passionately for and against. However, despite the prominence of migrants and migration there remains an absence of reliable data to explain what is happening in a balanced way and support evidence-based policy making,” said [Professor Mark Collinson](#) of SAPRIN.

SAPRIN was the only research platform to provide longitudinal population data on internal migration. SAPRIN’s longitudinal information on internal migration trends and data from the Migrant Health Follow-up Study is found from pages 81 to 88. It is a cohort study based at the [Agincourt Health and Demographic Surveillance System](#).

SAPRIN data highlights the high prevalence of internal migration, particularly among young adults, with temporary out-migration rates increasing, and rates of permanent migration - more commonly undertaken by women – declining.

The more detailed data collected through the Migrant Health Follow-up Study on socioeconomic and health measures allow for exploration of outcomes associated with migration. Internal migration is very much driven by employment opportunities. Migration is a key livelihood strategy for rural households.

The ability to differentiate between temporary and permanent migration is important for policy and planning, both for migrants and origin populations.

The Migration Profile Report for South Africa: A Country Profile 2023 can be accessed via this link https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=03-09-17&SCH=73907.