

CHAPTER THREE: Current Development Profile of the Free State

3.1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a profile and broad overview of current development in the Free State. The development profile is based on existing information and includes, *inter alia*, IDPs, national policies, planning frameworks, etc.

The focus of the current profile will be on the following development priorities:

1. Economic Growth, Development and Employment
2. Justice and Crime Prevention
3. Social and Human Development
4. Efficient Governance and Administration

3.2. ECONOMIC GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

The economic characteristics of the Free State are a key component to be considered as part of any development initiative. The aim of this subsection is to provide an overview of the economic profile of the province.

3.2.1. South African overview

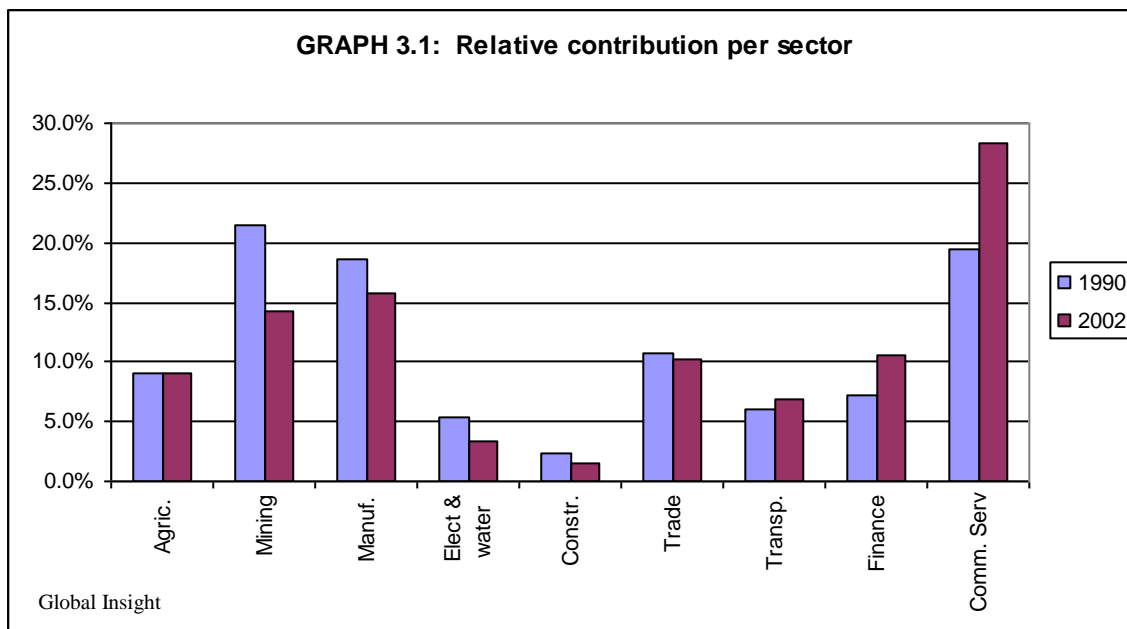
After the steady decline in annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth during the apartheid years, the country has begun to experience economic growth since 1994. South Africa will have growth rates rising to a projected 4% by 2005, with Consumer Price Inflation excluding mortgage rates (CPIX) falling to between 3% and 5% per annum by 2005.

In 2002, manufacturing grew by 5.4%, which was the fastest growth rate since 1995. The decline in employment in Manufacturing has eased and there are encouraging signs of possible employment growth in this sector.

Growth in real value added by the primary sectors improved from a decline of 1.6% in 2001 to 1.4% in 2002. This was due to the agricultural sector improving from a decline of 1.7% in 2001 to 4% in 2002. Increased field crop production contributed generously to this performance. The mining sector declined by 0.6%. Subdued global demand for metals and minerals and the dampening effect of the stronger Rand on export earnings have contributed to this decline.

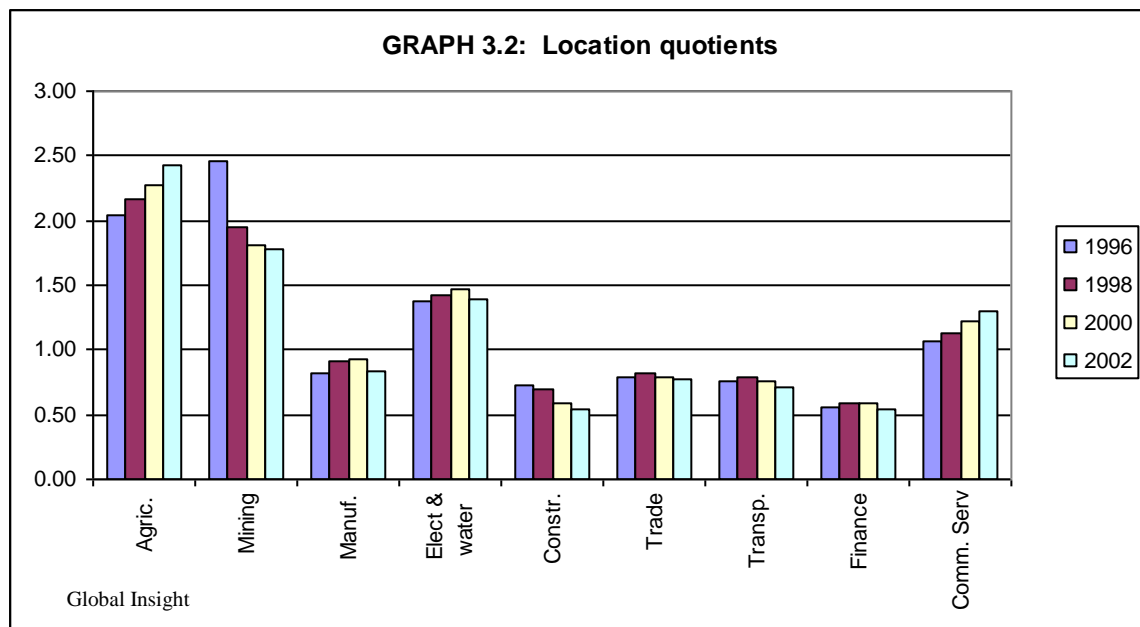
3.2.2. Provincial output

Graph 3.1 presents the relative contribution per economic sector. The graph shows the most important contributors to the provincial economy to be Mining (14%), Manufacturing (15%) and Community Services (28%). The graph also shows a number of changes in the structural composition of the provincial economy. Most notable of these structural changes is the decrease in the relative contribution generated by both Mining and Manufacturing, and the increase in the contribution generated by Community Services. Also, the relative contributions of Transport and Finance have increased.



These changes in the structural composition indicate a gradual shift away from the primary and secondary sectors, towards the tertiary sector.

By all standards, a gradual movement away from the primary sector towards the secondary and tertiary sectors is normally considered characteristic of a maturing economy. Graph 3.2 presents perspective on the comparative advantages enjoyed by the various sectors, as expressed in terms of the location quotients. This graph shows that the province enjoys a considerable comparative advantage in Agriculture, and that this advantage is still on the increase.

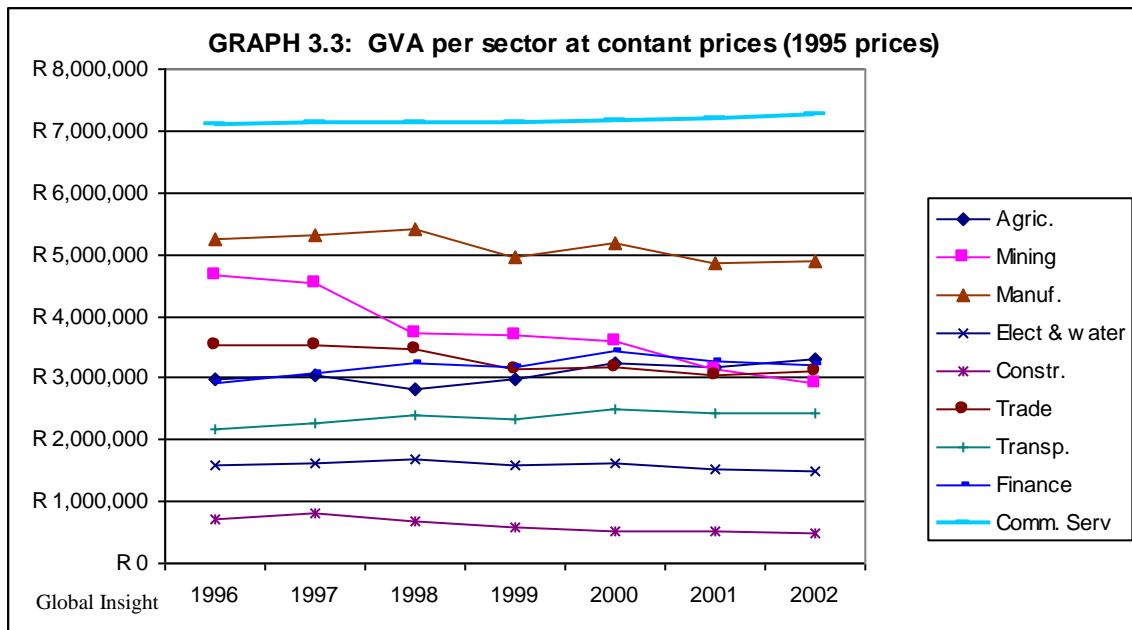


In contrast, the province experienced a notable loss in the degree of comparative advantage enjoyed in Mining, which used to be the mainstay of the provincial economy. The province is also experiencing a steady increase in its comparative advantage in Community Services, which mainly comprises government.

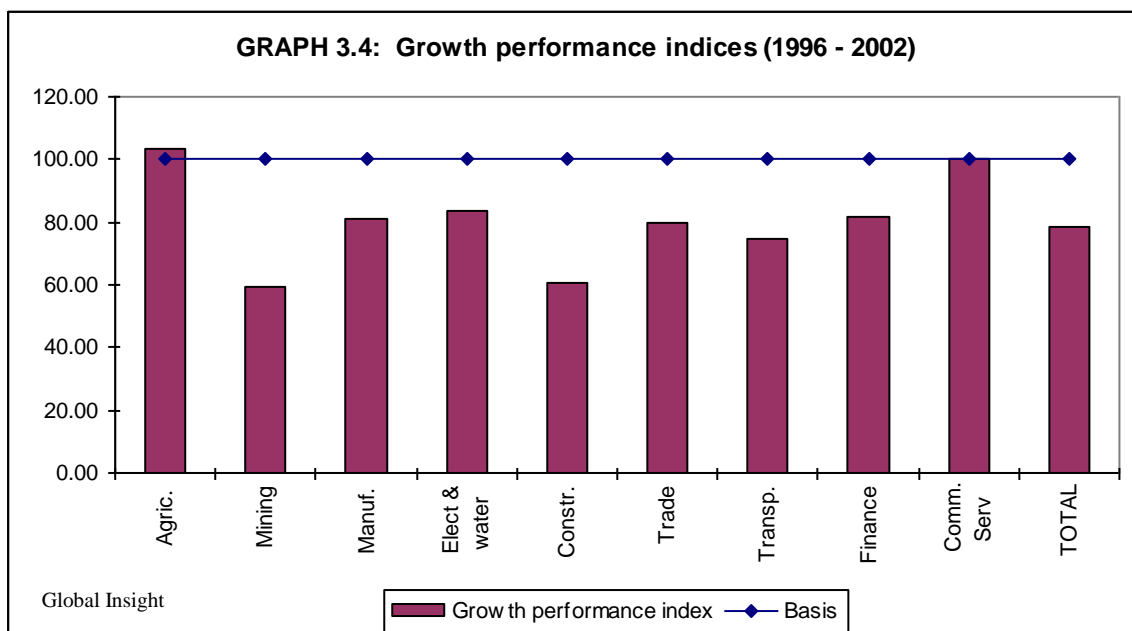
3.2.3. Growth rates achieved

The changes in the structural composition of the economy have to be assessed in context of the growth rates achieved in the various sectors. Graph 3.3 presents the GVA at constant prices to illustrate the real trends in each of the sectors.

Graph 3.3 indicates the gradual increase of output generated by the Community Services sector, which can largely be attributed to an increase in the size of government activities. The graph also shows the fluctuations of the GVA in Manufacturing, and the gradual decrease in the output levels achieved in Mining.



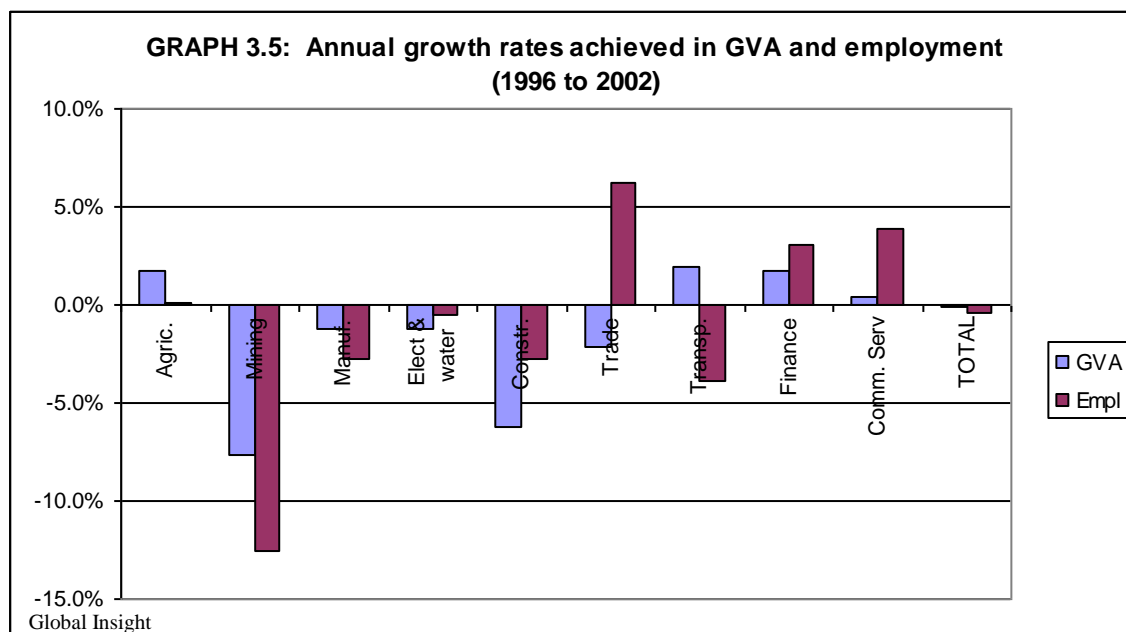
Graph 3.4 presents an indication of how the provincial growth compares with that achieved in the domestic economy. This perspective is presented with the growth performance index¹, for the period 1996 to 2002.



The graph shows that the aggregate economy of the Free State has underperformed to the domestic economy. The graph also shows that, the

¹ An index larger (less) than 100 indicates a leading (lagging) sector.

only two sectors that have managed to perform on par with the national average are Agriculture and Community Services.



Graph 3.5 compares the annual growth rates achieved in the GVA with that achieved in employment for the period 1996 to 2002.

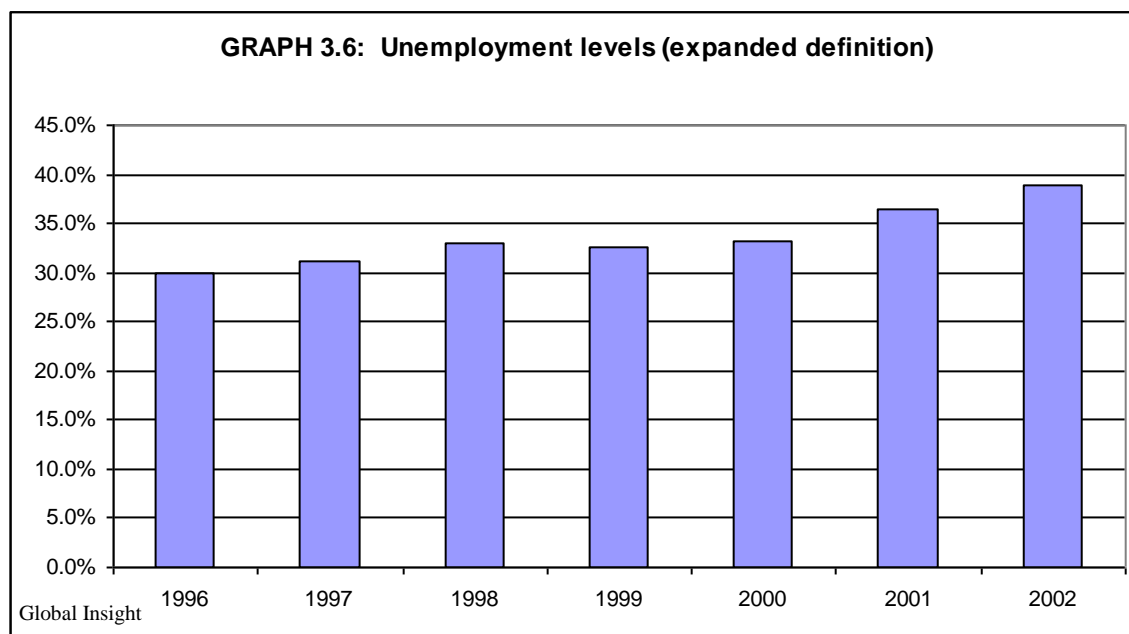
The graph clearly shows the negative growth in Mining, and the associated loss of employment opportunities. The only sectors that have achieved a positive growth over this period are Agriculture, Transport, Finance and Services, and the only sectors that managed to generate new employment opportunities were Agriculture (marginal), Trade, Finance and Services.

3.2.4. Employment levels

The Free State has experienced a steady increase in the levels of unemployment. This increase is illustrated in Graph 3.6.

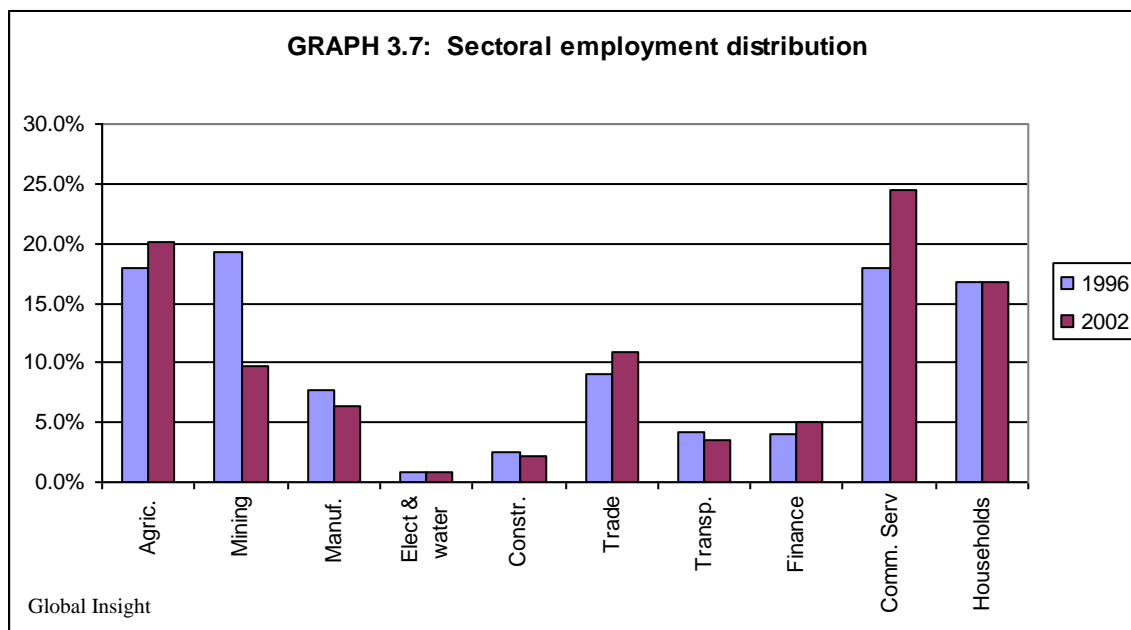
The graph shows that the level of unemployment (expanded definition) has increased from about 30% in 1996, to about 38.9% in 2002. This is slightly lower than the average for South Africa, which is estimated at 40%.

Economic sectors differ in their inherent capacity to generate employment opportunities, with some sectors being more labour intensive than others. Graph 3.7 presents perspective on the relative distribution of direct employment opportunities generated per sector.

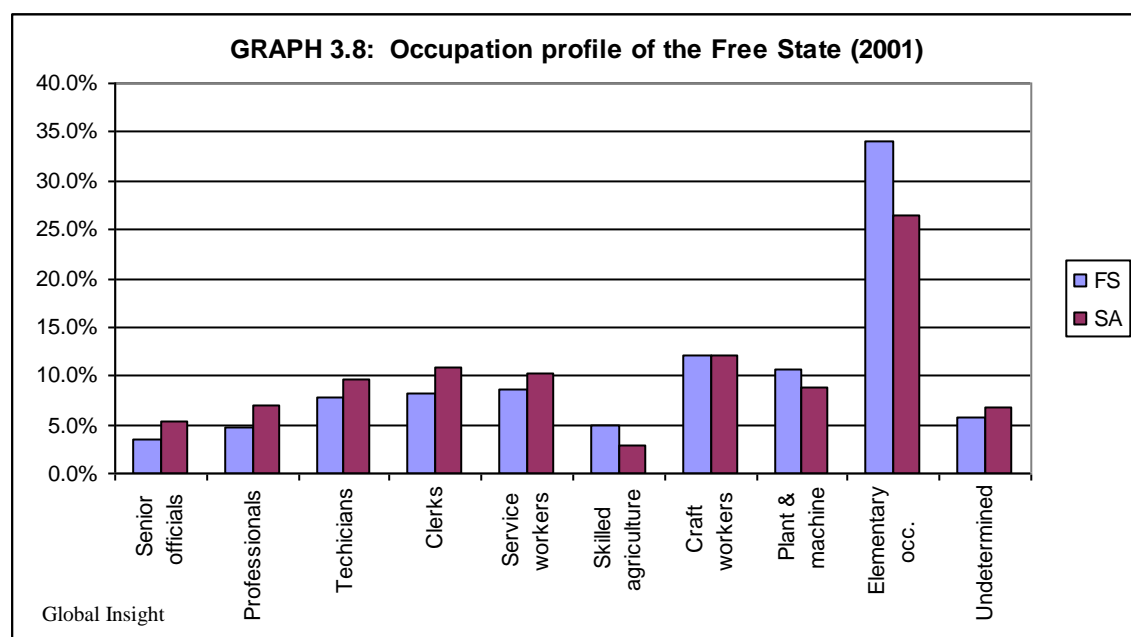


The graph shows t the most important sources of direct employment opportunities to be Agriculture, Trade, Community Services and Households. The Household sector mainly involves people working as domestic servants. The relative size of the household sector indicates the importance of this source of employment opportunities.

The graph also shows a number of important trends, such as a drastic decrease in the relative number of employment opportunities generated by Mining, whereas both Trade and Community Services have increased the relative number of employment opportunities.



The graph should also be interpreted in the context of Graph 3.1 to compare the economic profile with the sources of employment. This comparison indicates that Agriculture is labour intensive, as the sector contributes only 8% towards the economy, but generates about 16% of all formal employment opportunities.



Similarly, Trade contributes 10% towards the economy, but generates about 18% of all formal employment opportunities. In comparison, Mining generates about 15% towards the economy, but generates only 8% of formal employment opportunities.

The income levels of those that are employed are largely determined by the type of employment and their position. Graph 3.8 presents perspective on the occupancy profile.

The graph shows that the Free State has on average fewer people employed in the higher paid managerial and senior positions than the average for South Africa. On the other hand, the Free State has proportionally more people employed in the lower paid semi-skilled type and elementary occupations than the average for South Africa. The direct implication is that proportionally, the workforce of the Free State seems to be occupying positions that in general, pay less than the average for South Africa.

3.2.5. Infrastructure

3.2.5.1. Roads, rail and air transport

Compared to the other provinces of South Africa in terms of production output, the Free State is generally well-serviced in terms of physical infrastructure. Three of the country's national highways (i.e. the N1, N2 and N3) provide for strong spatial linkages with the rest of South Africa.

The province has an adequate rail system, which is particularly necessary for the transport of bulk goods. Some of the main railway lines linking the Eastern and Western Cape provinces with Gauteng, run through the Free State.

The general condition of the road network is summarised in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1 - Quality Status of the Provincial Road Infrastructure

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Total km
Surfaced roads	4%	11%	28%	40%	17%	6.411km
Gravel roads	-	18%	25%	22%	37%	22.100km
Unsurfaced dirt roads	-	-	20%	50%	30%	26.000km
Road furniture (safety measure)	-	29%	36%	4%	31%	-
Bridges	-	-	-	21%	10%	-

Source: PEAC reports

The Free State has been divided into 22 road districts, servicing some 293 000 vehicles. The province's road network comprises about 885km of national roads, 7 045km of blacktop roads, 21 942km of secondary roads and just over 20 000km of gravel roads.

The province is managing a total of 6 411 km of paved road network. This is the remaining portion of road network after transferring 811 of kilometers to the National Department (SANRAL) in 2003. A high percentage of roads is in a poor or very poor condition (63%). Gravel roads consist of 22 100 km of gravel secondary roads and 22 000 km of gravel tertiary roads. Tertiary roads are only maintained partially. Only 2% of paved roads are in a very good condition while 6% are in a good condition, 29% are in a fair condition, 36% are in a poor condition and 27% are in a very poor condition. In general, the state of the road network has deteriorated and many disadvantaged

communities lack the provision of adequate access roads and internal connector streets. Of particular concern is the quality of the gravel roads.

The Bloemfontein Airport is the third largest of the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). The airport handles about 17 700 air traffic movements a year that include international, domestic and non-scheduled flights. This equates to about 211 700 passengers per year. The airport also handles about 221 000 tons of cargo a year, primarily courier items and spare parts for machinery and factories. In general, the airport buildings are in a good condition, but need some upgrading and modernisation.

Most of the other towns in the Free State have their own airfields, either owned by the municipality or by ACSA.

3.2.5.2. Housing

Table 3.2 presents an overview of the dwelling types in the Free State, compared with South Africa.

TABLE 3.2 - Dwelling type (2001) (%)

HOUSING TYPE	FREE STATE	SOUTH AFRICA
Formal	62.9	63.8
Informal	26.1	16.4
Traditional	7.2	14.8
Backyard	3.6	4.8
Other	0.3	0.3

(SOURCE: SSA, 2003)

The table indicates that the Free State Province has proportionally the same number of formal dwellings, but more informal dwellings than the average for South Africa. A total of about 66 700 housing subsidies have been allocated in the province since 1994. Still, the province has a housing backlog estimated at about 140 000 units.

3.2.5.3. Energy

Table 3.3 presents an overview on the sources of energy used for cooking, heating and lighting in the Free State. About 56% of the Free State households have access to electricity, which would rank the province 4th in South Africa. The table indicates that just under 50% of the households in the Free State use electricity for cooking and 34% use paraffin. The table indicates that, compared to the average for South Africa, proportionally more Free State households use paraffin and a much smaller percentage use wood for cooking.

TABLE 3.3 - Household access to energy sources for cooking, heating and lighting (2001) (%)

Energy source	Cooking		Heating		Lighting	
	FS	SA	FS	SA	FS	SA
Electricity	46.9	51.4	40.5	49.0	74.4	69.7
Gas	3.4	2.5	1.5	1.1	0.2	0.2
Paraffin	34.1	21.4	24.1	14.7	4.7	6.8
Wood	7.9	20.5	14.1	24.6	0.0	0.0
Coal	5.4	2.8	14.8	6.6	0.0	0.0
Animal dung	1.6	0.9	1.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Solar	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Candles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.3	22.7
Other	0.3	0.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	0.0

(SOURCE: SSA, 2003)

The table also indicates that about 40% of the Free State households use electricity for heating purposes, which is less than the 49% for South Africa. However, proportionally more Free State households use paraffin and coal as their energy source for heating, and proportionally less use wood. It would thus appear that paraffin is a very important source of energy.

Thirdly, the table shows that nearly 75% of the Free State population use electricity for lighting, which is higher than the average of 69% for South Africa. The table also indicates that about 20% use candles for lighting purposes. In all, the table shows that electricity is a very important source of energy, which implies that a relative large percentage of households have been electrified. Secondly, paraffin seems to be an important source of energy for cooking and heating, whereas fossil fuels such as wood and coal are only important for heating purposes. Table 3.4 presents a summary of the electricity sales per economic sector.

TABLE 3.4 - Electricity sales per economic sector

ECONOMIC SECTOR	CONSUMERS & CONSUMPTION	2001	2000	1999	1998
Domestic	Consumers	385 361	369 121	387 202	333 432
	MWh	1 098 813	1 531 348	1 434 089	1 438 829
Agriculture	Consumers	9 738	10 244	9 099	9 380
	MWh	233 248	237 804	292 892	230 845
Mining	Consumers	56	54	42	28
	MWh	4 007 806	4 056 702	4 092 366	4 885 365
Manufacturing	Consumers	1 054	3 177	3 133	3 205
	MWh	668 136	993 430	974 549	1 145 652
Commercial	Consumers	7 640	18 002	17 500	17 961
	MWh	313 270	441 691	458 513	390 273
Transport	Consumers	598	504	106	18
	MWh	97 583	89 847	92 330	124 712
General	Consumers	970	6 698	935	3 127
	MWh	233 618	804 583	310 979	25 183
TOTAL	Consumers	405 418	408 262	419 703	367 156
	MWh	6 652 476	7 367 872	7 218 494	8 364 908

(SOURCE: NER)

3.2.5.4. Water

Table 3.5 presents an overview of the household access to water in the Free State.

TABLE 3.5 - Household access to water (2001) (%)

MAIN SOURCE F WATER SUPPLY	FREE STATE PROVINCE	SOUTH AFRICA
Piped water in dwelling	22.8	32.3
Piped water in yard	47.7	29.0
Piped water on community stand < 200m away	13.7	10.7
Piped water on community stand > 200m away	11.4	12.4
Borehole	0.6	2.4
Spring	0.2	1.9
Rain-water tank	0.1	0.6
Dam / pool / stagnant water	0.3	1.0
River v/ stream	0.1	6.5
Water vendor	0.2	0.8
Other	2.9	2.4

(SOURCE: SSA, 2003)

About 95.7% of households in the Free State have access to piped water, compared to the average of 84.5% for South Africa. This would rank the province 3rd highest with respect to water provision in South Africa. However, the table shows that proportionally fewer people have access to piped water in their dwelling, but more have access to piped water in the yard, than the average for South Africa.

3.2.5.5. Sanitation

Table 3.6 presents an overview of the access to sanitation facilities in the Free State.

TABLE 3.6 - Household access to sanitation facilities (2001) (%)

MAIN TYPE OF SANITATION	FREE STATE PROVINCE	SOUTH AFRICA
Flush toilet (connected to sewerage system)	44.7	49.1
Flush toilet (with septic tank)	1.6	2.8
Chemical toilet	0.8	1.9
Pit latrine with ventilation (VIP)	6.2	5.7
Pit latrine without ventilation	16.5	22.8
Bucket latrine	20.5	4.1
None	9.7	13.6

(SOURCE: SSA, 2003)

About 70% of Free State households have access to some form of sanitation at a level better than a bucket system, which would place the province the second lowest in South Africa.

In more detail, the table shows that about 43% of the Free State households have access to flush toilets, compared to 52% for South Africa. The table also shows that a much higher proportion of the Free State population still uses the bucket system, which is the most elementary sanitation system. Just less than 10% of the Free State households still do not have access to any form of sanitation system.

3.2.5.6. Communication

Table 3.7 presents an overview of the access to fixed line and cellular telephones. About 35% of Free State households have access to a telephone,

compared to the national average of 42%. In general, the province is well provided with both fixed line and cellular telephone facilities.

TABLE 3.7 - Household access to telephone (2001)

TELEPHONE FACILITIES	FREE STATE PROVINCE	SOUTH AFRICA
Telephone in dwelling and cellphone	9.9	14.2
Telephone in dwelling only	10.5	10.2
Cellphone only	14.9	18.0
At a neighbour nearby	6.8	6.6
At a public telephone nearby	43.6	38.5
At another location nearby	4.2	3.2
At another location, not nearby	2.7	3.4
No access to a telephone	7.5	5.9

(SOURCE: SSA, 2003)

The economy of the Free State used to be dominated by Mining and Manufacturing. The largest portion of Mining was generated in the Free State Gold Fields, whereas the bulk of Manufacturing was generated in the petrochemical plants in Sasolburg. However, in recent times, the contribution of Mining has declined in both absolute and relative terms. This can possibly be attributed to some of the mines becoming marginal and having to close due to a combination of factors such as the international gold price, an increase in the costs (e.g. labour), exchange rates (e.g. an improvement in the exchange rate implies lower returns), and the resource base becoming marginal. The production output of Manufacturing has also decreased somewhat.

The only sector that has managed a notable growth is Services, which mainly involves the activities of government. This increase in Services has resulted in a change in the internal structure of the provincial economy, with Services now dominating the economy (contributing about 28%). This is not a preferred trend as Services is generally not considered a "productive" sector, in the

sense that it does not generate any saleable product or service. The largest portion of the production value of Services involves salaries to government officials.

Agriculture is not a major driver of the economy, and the sector experiences annual fluctuations, which can be attributed to factors such as rainfall and commodity prices. However, the sector has on average managed to maintain its absolute production levels, and even outperformed the national average.

The average level of unemployment has increased from about 30% in 1996 to 38% in 2002. This trend can largely be attributed to a huge loss in direct employment opportunities in Mining. It is also important to note that the level of employment is measured at the place of employment and not at the origin of employment. In the case of the Free State, a large percentage of men working on the mines are not from the Free State, but from other provinces and Lesotho. As such, the actual number of Free State people employed is even lower than the official statistics. The implication is that the level of poverty has increased, and the actual dependency rate is higher than the official rate estimated at 4.5.

At present, the most important sources of employment are Agriculture, Services and Households.

The general quality of the human capital of the Free State is on a par with the average for South Africa. However, a worrisome trend is the increase in the level of HIV / AIDS, which already pose serious problems in the Mining Sector.

The province falls in two major catchment areas, namely the Vaal and the Orange. Whereas the water demand exceeds the yield in the Vaal River (which necessitates the importation of water), the opposite is true for the Orange River.

The province has significant mineral resources, of which gold is the most important. However, mineral resources are finite, and some mines are becoming marginal. The province is well served with telecommunications infrastructure (both fixed line and cellular). The province has an extensive road network system, but there are concerns about the deterioration, particularly the gravel roads.

3.3. SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

3.3.1. South African overview

The National Department of Social Development is responsible for developing and monitoring the implementation of social policy that both creates an enabling environment for, and leads to the reduction in, poverty. The Department ensures the provision of social protection and social welfare services to all South Africans.

Responsibility for most of the service delivery rests with provincial Departments. There has been a substantial increase in the social development budget from R19.4 billion in 1990/00 to R31.2 billion in 2002/3. By September 2003, about 6.5 million people received social grants at a cost of about R2.5 billion per month. Of these, 3.8 million received the Child Support Grant (CSG) and about two million, Old-Age Grants.

South Africa's overall health system performance was rated 175th out of 191 member states in the World Health Organisation's *World Health Report, 2000*.

3.3.2. Social Security

In the 2001/02 budget, about R1.4 billion was allocated to social development in the Free State, which comprised 16.9% of the Provincial budget. This amount has been increasing steadily from R1.2 billion during 1999/00 (i.e. 17.4%). The Free State is, however, still underperforming in terms of social

development spending when compared to the South African average of about 18.9% (of the total budget). Only Gauteng allocates a smaller percentage (14.3%) of its budget to social development spending (i.e. R2.9 billion in 2001/2).

The proportion of people in the Free State living in poverty is 53.2%. Presently there are 592 443 beneficiaries in the Free State. The expenditure on social security amounts to R 251 577 827 every month and makes up 89% of the total welfare budget. The Child Support Grant is presently R170 per child per month and there are now 316 392 children benefiting from this grant. Other grants according to the Strategic Plan (2005/6) of the Provincial Department of Social Development include:

- Care Dependency Grant 3 134
- Disability Grant 106 931
- Foster Care 22 410
- Old-Age Grant 124 514

3.3.3. Health

The Free State has a reasonably well-developed health infrastructure system that comprises the following:

Ambulance service (not vehicles)	58
AIDS information training centre	3
Blood bank	3
Community health centre	23
Fixed clinic	332
Private clinic	9
Academic hospital	2
District hospital	27
Military hospital	1
Private hospital	12
Regional hospital	5

Specialised hospital	4
TB hospital	1
Laboratory	9
Mobile clinic	145

The province has about 2.4 doctors and 32.5 nurses per 10 000 of the population, compared to the national average of 2.9 and 32.4 respectively. This would make the Free State the province with the 3rd highest ratio of total medical personnel in South Africa.

The number and type of health care facilities in the Free State are illustrated by Table 3.8. In total there are 4 499 non-fixed clinics, 259 fixed-clinics, 11 community health centres and 28 district hospitals located in the province.

During the 2000/01 financial year, the Free State allocated R8.1 billion to the provincial health budget. Only Mpumalanga (R8 billion) and Northern Cape (R2.8 billion) spent less on health than the Free State, while the other provinces spent substantially more (e.g. Kwa-Zulu Natal spent R23.8 billion).

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the Free State is estimated at around 36.8 deaths per 1000 infants ranking the province fourth in South Africa.

TABLE 3.8 – District health service facilities by health district

Health district	Facility type	No.	Population	Population per PHC facility or per hospital bed	Per capita utilisation
Motheo	Non-fixed clinics	1277	736 292	544	2.02
	Fixed clinics	76			
	Community Health Centres	3		245 431	
	Subtotal clinics and Community Health Centres	1356		543	
	District hospitals	5		147 258	
Xhariep	Non-fixed clinics	2 457	132 070	54	2.02

	Fixed clinics	38			
	Community Health Centres	2		6 604	
	Subtotal clinics and Community Health Centres	2 497		53	
	District hospitals	6		22 012	
Thabo Mofutsanyana	Non-fixed clinics	19	738 328	8 585	2.5
	Fixed clinics	67		738 328	
	Community Health Centres	1		8 487	
	Subtotal clinics and Community Health Centres	87		92 291	
	District hospitals	8			
Lejweleputswa	Non-fixed clinics	245	649 955	2 653	3.02
	Fixed clinics	46		0	
	Community Health Centres	0		2 234	
	Subtotal clinics and Community Health Centres	291		129 991	
	District hospitals	5			
Northern Free State	Non-fixed clinics	501	415 751	830	2.6
	Fixed clinics	32		83 150	
	Community Health Centres	5		773	
	Subtotal clinics and Community Health Centres	538		103 938	
	District hospitals	4			
Province	Non-fixed clinics	4499	2 857 519	601	2.4
	Fixed clinics	259		259 774	
	Community Health Centres	11		599	
	Subtotal clinics and Community Health Centres	4769			

	District hospitals	28		102 054	
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The Eastern Cape has the highest IMR at 61.2 while the Western Cape has the lowest. The Free State IMR compares well to the national average (45.4), Swaziland (101) and Botswana (74) but less favourably to developed countries such as Germany (5).

In terms of tuberculosis (TB) the Free State is ranked sixth in the country accounting for about 6.2% (i.e. 9 414) of reported cases in 2000. It is, however, of concern that over 17 000 people, who suffer from TB in the Free State, also suffer from HIV infection. This ranks the province third in South Africa in 2001. This means that 56.6% of TB patients also contracted the HIV virus. This percentage grew from 51.7% in 2000 and is expected to increase even further in the near future. The national average was estimated at 47.6% in 2000 and 52.5% in 2001. The TB Medium Term Development Plan is being implemented in the Free State. The Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) was implemented in all services with a 96% patient coverage. To date, DOTS is being provided to 80 towns in the Free State with a total of 1 436 volunteers and 6 679 DOTS beneficiaries.

According to the 2001 HIV antenatal survey report the prevalence rate is 30.13%. This indicates an increase of 2.2% as compared to the prevalence rate of 2000, which was 27.9%. The PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV) programme was launched in November 2001 at two research sites in the Free State namely, Katileho and Tokollo Hospitals together with their referring clinics. Existing research sites were expanded during 2002 within the Katileho/Winburg District Hospital Complex as well as the Tokollo/Mafube District Hospital Complex and to establish one PMTCT site per remaining district. Nevirapine is now available at all institutions providing maternity services. A training plan that will address the integration of VCCT, PMTCT, Maternal Health and ARVs is being developed. The implementation of the ARV portion of the Comprehensive Care and Treatment of HIV and AIDS programme commenced on 15 June 2004 in Welkom.

Audits conducted by the National Department of Health assessed whether each clinic in the Free State rendered a full package of Primary Health Care services. Some clinics are served by nurses only; others have doctors visiting at specified intervals. Other services render a full package of services. District health plans do not provide for each clinic to deliver the full package as identified in the national audit definitions. The referral system ensures that all patients are treated at the appropriate level of care.

The district rural health strategy was developed and implemented. Monitoring is being done on a quarterly basis. The district health information system is in place to ensure access to level 1 care. Districts are working on strengthening the programme. 85% of the population in the rural node live within 5 km of a fixed clinic.

Emergency Medical Services are fully operational in all district municipalities. There are 67 stations and satellite points. Average response times currently range from 45 to 60 minutes in urban areas and 60 to 90 minutes in rural areas. Planned Patient Transport for non-emergency cases is implemented in all districts with dedicated staff separate from pre-hospital. There are eight hundred personnel employed in various categories. Thirteen Advance Life Support professionals are being trained to improve the quality of care of pre-hospital emergency services. The province has only four Advance Life Support professionals. In partnership with Department of Local Government, an emergency services control room has been built in Bloemfontein for emergency medical services and disaster management.

Currently there are 22138 posts on the staff establishment. On 31/3/2004 a total of 14626 were filled. This is a vacancy rate of 33,9%. The recruitment and retention of scarce skills, such as doctors, pharmacists, therapists, and others are of great concern. During the 2001/2002 financial years all excess staff were placed and absorbed, currently there are no excess officials. The payment of scarce skills and rural allowances was implemented during the 2003/2004 financial years. Community service was also extended in 2002 to other categories of health professionals.

3.3.4. Sport, recreation and cultural activities

Between 15% and 20% of the population make use of library facilities. The service has 269 344 registered members (9% of the population) while approximately 300 000 people (approximately 10%) use the facilities without registering as members. 59.1% of members are people from previously disadvantaged communities. Libraries are visited by approximately 3 million people per year.

MACUFE is currently one of the biggest cultural events in the province, which attracts large numbers of people from other provinces. Other cultural events are of a small scale.

3.3.5. Education

The province has a university (University of the Free State), with a number of other tertiary institutions. The province has 1 760 primary and 392 secondary schools.

In terms of the Education infrastructure, the main challenge is the demand placed on the infrastructure due to the movement of communities from one area to another, seeking job opportunities in economically viable areas. The unintended consequence of these movements is the underutilisation of some schools and hostels in certain areas in the province and the need for more in other areas. The Thabo Mofutsanyana district has an over-supply of classrooms whilst the challenge of overcrowding and platooning is experienced in Northern Free State, Motheo and Lejweleputswa. At the beginning of 2005, the province had 21 platooning schools, i.e. 2 schools using one building for two different sessions during a day, 33 unsafe structures at 27 farm schools, 441 schools without water (of which 204 are non-viable farm schools and 104 farm schools without signed agreements), 117 schools without sanitation (of which 43 are non-viable farm schools), 544

schools without electricity (of which 270 are non-viable farm schools and 154 have no signed agreements).

3.3.6. Human Resource Development

According to the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), everyone has the right to basic education, including adult basic education and further education, which the State, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible. There has been a significant increase in the education budget allocation from R31.8 billion in 1994 to R69 063 billion in 2003. At almost 6% of the Gross Domestic Product, South Africa has one of the highest rates of government investment in education in the world.

Curriculum 2005 is the brand name of the National Curriculum Framework introduced into schools in 1998 and based on the concept of Outcome Based Education (OBE). The revised OBE Curriculum will be phased in, starting with Grades R to 3 in 2004 and Grade 10 in 2006. The new senior certificate (i.e. the Further Education and Training certificate) will be introduced in Grade 12 in 2008.

In July 2000, the final report on the National ECD Pilot Project was released. Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD) usually cater for children from the age of three years to school-going age. It is estimated that about 90% of children under the age of nine in South Africa do not have access to ECD prior to attending school. A total number of 1 665 ECD centres were recorded in the Free State that catered for some 66 593 children. These centres were staffed with almost 4 000 teachers, indicating a student-teacher ratio of 19 to 1. This ratio compared favourably with the national average and the other provinces.

The Free State provincial per capita expenditure on primary and secondary education decreased by 0.8% from 2000/01 (R3 430) to 2001/2 (R3 402). This indicator does, however, compare very favourably with the national average

(R3 176) and most of the other provinces. Only the Northern Cape (R3 664) and Western Cape (R3 568) provincial governments recorded a higher per capita expenditure on education. Furthermore, the Free State allocated R75.7 million to learner support materials such as textbooks and stationery during 2000/1. The province increased this allowance by 181% from 1999/00 to 2000/01 compared to the national average of 134%.

The functional literacy rate of the Free State population was 69.2 percent, compared with the national average of 71.6 percent. The HDI for the Free State was 0.67, which is just below the national average of 0.69. The pass rate for senior certificate dramatically improved from 52.5% in 2000 to almost 80% in 2004, and the literacy rate was 69.2% in 2003. The university endorsement rate was 18.8% in 2002.

During 2000, the Free State accounted for 9.2% or 2 443 of the public schools in South Africa. This was, however, insufficient and a classroom shortage of 3 200 has been reported in the province. The shortage of classrooms in the Free State is receiving attention and the situation is better than in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo, where classroom shortages of 23 000 and 17 000 respectively have been reported. The Free State also had the highest percentage (33% or 1 519) of farm schools in South Africa in 2001.

A total of 732 491 pupils and 22 834 teachers were counted during 2000 in the Free State (i.e. public schools). This means that there are on average 32.1 pupils for every teacher in primary and secondary schools in the province. This pupil to teacher ratio compares well to the national average (33.4) and is only exceeded by the Eastern Cape, North West and the Northern Cape provinces. KwaZulu-Natal has a pupil to teacher ratio of 36.6 in its public schools. At independent schools (formerly private schools) in the Free State the pupil to teacher ratio was only 21.7 during 2000.

About 75% of teachers in the Free State are regarded as qualified while the rest are in possession of less than a senior certificate and a three-year teaching qualification (i.e. underqualified). This means that about 25% of

teachers are underqualified compared to the national average of 22%. The province ranks third highest in the country in terms of its proportion of teachers who are underqualified for their posts. In Gauteng and the Western Cape, only 11% of teachers are underqualified. It should, however, be noted that the proportion of underqualified teachers in the Free State has been declining from 42% in 1994. There were seven teacher training colleges registered in the Free State in 2000, with an attendance of some 2 134 students.

On 27 August 2003, the Cabinet approved the *Draft White Paper on e-Education*. The goal is to ensure that every learner is ICT-capable by 2010, and that all schools are connected to the Internet by that time. During 1996, there was one personal computer for every 360 to 400 pupils in primary and secondary schools in the Free State. Overall, computer access at primary schools in the province compared better to the other provinces than in secondary schools. At secondary school level, the ratio of pupils to a computer (364) ranked the Free State fourth in the country. Gauteng and the Western Cape recorded the lowest pupil to computer ratios.

The ABET Act, 2000 and the regulations for a National ABET Board provide a legislative framework for the establishment, governance and funding of ABET centres. Between 1999 and 2002, over one million learners attended and successfully completed literacy and ABET programmes across South Africa. During 2000, there were 149 ABET centres in the Free State with an enrolment of over 25 000 students and almost 2000 lecturers. In terms of student enrolment at ABET centres, the Free State ranked fifth among the provinces and seventh with reference to the number of available public ABET centres.

3.3.7. The Youth

It is important to first outline the situation of the youth in the Free State as a stimulant and profiling their need to be treated as a special group. The Study:

Youth Profile of the Free State (1996 and 2001) reflected the following about the situation of the youth in the Free State:

- The Free State has a significantly larger percentage of African youths in comparison with the national percentages. In the Free State the African youths made up 86.7% of the youth population in 1996 and 90% in 2001. For South Africa the respective figures were 78.8% in 1996 and 79% in 2001.
- Added to the above trends and conclusion it should also be noted that the proportion of the Free State African youths has increased between 1996 and 2001 (from 86.7% to 90.5%). This increase is also higher than the proportional increase in the African youth population for South Africa and confirms the earlier conclusion on the extreme and growing youth problem in the Free State.
- At the same time the White youth population in the Free State has decreased proportionally from 10.1% in 1996 to 7% in 2001, whilst the proportion for South Africa has remained almost the same (9.5% in 1996 to 10% in 2001).
- The proportion of Coloureds and Asian youths is extremely small and static.

Put somewhat more analytically, in 1996 there were 16 164 063 young people in South Africa, of whom 1 078 597 resided in the Free State. This meant that 6.7% of the total youth population of South Africa resided in the Free State. This was slightly higher than the Free State's share of the total population in 1996, which was 6.5%. In 2001 the Free State's share of the youth population decreased to 6.04%, which is once again slightly higher than the 6% of the total population in South Africa residing in the Free State.

Except for the Asian youths the annual youth population growth rates for all other population groups are considerably lower than the growth rates for youths in South Africa. For example, the total annual youth population growth rate in the Free State is 0.33% compared to 2.34% nationally. For African youths the comparative figures are 1.08% per annum for the Free State, and 3.06% per annum for South Africa. ? Noteworthy is the fact that the youth growth rate of 0.33% is lower than the 0.6% for the Free State. ????????

There is also a considerable decline in the population figures for the Free State White youth population, from 109 075 in 1996 to 78 356 in 2001. The above lower youth population growth rates in the Free State compared with the national figures between 1996 and 2001, as well as the considerable decline in the White youth population, are perhaps an indication of:

- The Free State youth not finding economic opportunities in the Free State and leaving the Free State in search of such opportunities (it seems especially true for the white youths but also for black youths).
- It could also be argued that HIV & AIDS related deaths could also play a role as the Free State is one of the provinces with the highest HIV & AIDS prevalence rates in South Africa.

Considering the above reality the following concluding comments can be made:

The African youths in general remain by far the majority in terms of youth demographics in the Free State. This in essence means that policy and programmatic interventions should target African youths in particular.

From the above analysis it could be deduced that the economic development in the Free State has not managed to secure job opportunities for the Free State youth and that they are increasingly leaving the province in search of employment opportunities. This study further found that:

- As in South Africa as a whole, the proportion of youths without any formal education in the Free State gradually increases with age, from approximately 3% (in 1996) and 1.1% (in 2001) of 14-year-olds, to 12% (in 1996) and 11% (in 2001) of 35-year-olds.
- Fewer 14-year-olds (76% in 1996 and 71% in 2001) and 15-year-olds (57% in 1996 and 50% in 2001) had attained a primary education (i.e. Grades 1-7) since 1996. At the same time more than half of all 16- to 21-year-olds in 1996 and 2001 reported their highest qualification to be at a secondary school level (i.e. Grades 8-11, excluding matric).
- Similar to the national figures, more than two of every five youths (42% in 1996 and 43.7% in 2001) had some secondary education.
- In respect of the youths who had obtained a matric, in 1996 one in five youths in the Free State between the ages of 20 and 27 had matriculated. This increased to one in every three youths having matriculated by 2001. The total percentage of youths who had a matric in the Free State was 14.4%, slightly lower than the 18% for the country as a whole. This figure also increased in 2001 to 19.4% in the Free State and 22% in the country as a whole.
- As in South Africa as a whole, the African and Coloured youths in the Free State are by far the worst off due to a total lack of schooling, with the 1996 figures showing two in every ten African and Coloured youths not having attended school. It seems that this figure has decreased drastically because by 2001, only 6.4% (not even 1 out of every 10) of all the African and Coloured youths in the Free State had not received any schooling.
- In 1996, the majority of youths amongst the African and Coloured youths obtained a Grade 1-7 while the Asian and White youths obtained a matric. This picture seems to have changed in 2001, where the majority of African and Coloured youths have achieved a Grade 8-11.
- Furthermore, approximately one in ten African and Coloured youths has matriculated, compared with approximately four in ten Asian and White youths. These figures also improved by 2001, with 19.7% of the

African and Coloured youths in the Free State having matriculated together with 40.3% of the Asian youths. Regarding post-matric qualifications, White youths are by far the best off, with approximately 17% in 1996 and 19.2% in 2001 of these youths in the Free State having obtained a post-matric qualification. Thus, although the Grade 12 pass rate in the Free State has increased considerably during the last 10 years, the percentage of youths with this qualification is still lower than the national average. There also seems to be an increase in the percentage of youths with primary school education. This means that a considerable effort is still needed to address the educational level of the Free State youth. Furthermore, the far lower levels of qualifications for African youths are also problematic.

With regard to youth employment, the same study reflected that of the total Free State population in 1996 between the ages of 15 and 34 years (976 911), 306 789 youths (15-34 years) were employed, 189 009 were unemployed and 450 611 were not economically active. By 2001, of 1 000 286 youths in the Free State, 236 059 were employed and 485 430 were not economically active. Where the change occurred is in the number of unemployed youths between the ages of 15 and 34 years (278 693). More specifically, the labour force participation rate was 50.8% in 1996 and 51.5% in 2001; the labour absorption rate 31.4% in 1996 and 23.6% in 2001, and the unemployment rate 38.1% in 1996 and 54.1% in 2001. Noticeably, the labour absorption rate has decreased slightly but the unemployment rate grew drastically by 16% for the period 1996 and 2001.

These trends shown above reflect extremely negative on the economy of the Free State and its ability to absorb the Free State's youth in the formal employment market. In fact, in all the cases the figures for the Free State's youth reflect a negative trend. To a large degree this confirms the earlier conclusions about male migrant workers leaving the province in search of employment. According to the study:

- Proportionally more youths than adults in the Free State were employed in agriculture, manufacturing, wholesale and trade, financial services in 1996 and 2001.
- In the following sectors proportionally fewer youths are employed than adults: mining and quarrying and private households.
- In electricity, gas and water supply, construction and transport, employment percentages are more or less the same for youths and adults – especially in 2001.
- The only sector where there is a major difference between 1996 and 2001 is in the community services sector. In this sector the percentage of adults has overtaken the percentage of youths.
- It also seems that real growth in youth employment between 1996 and 2001 was experienced in agriculture, mining, wholesale and retail, construction, transport storage and communication, and community services.
- Real decline in youth employment has taken place in manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, and financial services.

With regard to the type of employment undertaken by the youth of the Free State, the highest percentage of elementary occupations is found among the African youth and more specifically among female African youths. In 2001 the percentage of female youths in elementary occupations was 48.5% compared to the 33.3% for male African youths. At the same time the male and female proportions of White youths in elementary occupations were 4.5% and 5.7%.

Another study conducted by the Free State Youth Commission, “A profile of perceptions and behaviour of Youth in the Free State (1994)” reflected the following overall findings:

Although the majority of the unemployed youth are still hopeful that they will find a job, a close-up view shows that for a large proportion their chances of finding employment are seriously strained by a lack of basic employment skills and poor qualifications. This is of particular concern amongst black youths

older than 20 years, where almost one out of every two did not complete their secondary school training. To a certain extent this group is doomed to either continued unemployment or unskilled (low - income) employment – scenarios that are not contributing to endeavours to increase the quality of life and enhance sustainable human development. Clearly this is an area that calls for intervention, starting with the cultivation of a culture of education.

Teenage pregnancies are one of the main reasons for young black girls not completing their school education. The burden of early motherhood aggravates their socio-economic position and thus further hinders their opportunities to improve their quality of life. Addressing this problem would call for an integrated strategy that links a well-targeted reproductive health information campaign with poverty-relief programmes, particularly in deprived communities. Since a need for youth actions and youth oriented programmes has been expressed – especially programmes of an educational nature – this probably offers an angle for intervention.

Approximately two thirds of the youth are of the opinion that the levels of crime in their neighbourhoods have increased over the past two years. This should be seen against the background that the majority of the youth also believe that the police are inefficient in dealing with crime. Greater community involvement in the battle against crime has been pointed out as one of the foremost strategies to address the problem of crime. It would thus seem that an opportunity exists to involve the youth in the battle against crime by means of youth actions and/or youth programmes, especially since the need for youth programmes has been identified earlier.

The vast majority of black respondents (61.8%) aged 14-19 years already had sexual intercourse with another person in the past, in contrast to the almost 91% of white youths in the same age group who *did not* have sexual intercourse in the past. 37% of all black youths – and young black men in particular – have had two or more than two sexual partners over the past twelve months. Aggravating the situation is the fact that almost one out of every three young blacks that are unmarried or who had multiple sexual

partners over the past year, engage in unsafe sex (not using a condom). Some 6% of black youths had their first sexual experience before the age of 12 – a finding that in all likelihood points to the problem of coerced sexual intercourse. The early age at which black youths in particular become sexually active, their number of sexual partners, as well as their engagement in unsafe sex, all point to a high-risk behaviour for contracting HIV & AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. It no doubt also contributes to the problem of teenage pregnancies and early dropouts from school with young black girls in particular bearing the brunt.

Although black and white youths are equally knowledgeable about the causes of HIV & AIDS, there are huge discrepancies when it comes to the sexual behaviour of black and white youths. Black youths have more sexual partners, are more sexually active at an earlier age and engage more in unsafe sexual practices compared to white youths.

This trend confirms the findings of previous studies at national level. Proportionately, the sexual behavioural patterns of black youths are thus exposing them to a much higher risk of HIV & AIDS infection.

Black youths make more attempts at starting businesses and express more interest in starting their own business, but are also involved in a larger number of unsuccessful businesses, than white youths. A need to empower the youth – and black youths in particular – with the necessary skills and knowledge that are required for successful entrepreneurial ventures, clearly exists.

The Free State Youth Commission further undertook a study on Integrating Youth Development in the Free State Municipal and Government Departments. This study reflected the following key findings:

Various provincial departments have launched a wide range of youth development programmes, whereas most local municipalities (about 80%) do not have programmes that are off the ground. This is a very disturbing finding because local government is a sphere of government that is very close to the

people and hence is charged with a responsibility to execute strategic, developmental and service delivery programmes of government in general. A lack of youth development programmes can mainly be attributed to a lack of Youth Development Policy in most local municipalities, as well as a lack of integration of youth development within the IDPs, which in turn can be attributed to a lack of participation of youth in matters of local governance.

Youth development programmes that are launched by departments vary in relevance and efficiency. For example, prevention of substance abuse in the Department of Health is extensive and widespread, and to a large extent complies with the Principles of Effective Practice on Youth Development, whereas the training of tour guides in the Department of Tourism is a small programme and its sustainability is not certain because of its non-compliance with the effective principles.

This project and others by most departments take young people for a ride and at their completion provide them with unaccredited certificates of attendance, which are not recognised anywhere or by anyone, and do not by any means enhance the employability of the beneficiaries. The evil of such programmes is that a legitimate expectation has been created in the lives of those young people while in reality they are not better off in terms of required skills when they graduate from such pseudo-developmental programmes.

Some departments are relatively more active in the youth development arena. A small, relatively underresourced department such as Sport, Arts, Culture, Science and Technology is implementing more youth programmes than a much more resourced department, such as Land Affairs. This could be attributed to the fact that Sport, Arts and Culture activities are in themselves youthful.

Local and district municipalities do not implement youth development programmes because there is neither budget nor adequate staff to address youth programmes. Local and district municipalities tend to direct their

budgets at core municipal functions and ignore youth programmes. About 70% of local municipalities work with the departments, and regard youth development as the sole responsibility of the departments.

Approximately 40% of the departments have established youth units, whereas about 70% of municipalities have established youth units. The youth units consist of a Special Programme Officer (SPO) who focuses on vulnerable groups i.e. the youth, disabled persons, women and persons with HIV & AIDS. Due to the wide scope of the SPOs' work they find it difficult to be effective in their focus areas. Their efficiency is also compromised by inappropriate locations as most of them are located in different directorates and hence are not able to coordinate the youth development work conducted by other directorates. For that reason the department implements youth development programmes and the Commission is therefore under the impression that such a department does not have any programmes because they are not reported to the Interdepartmental Committee on Youth Affairs (IDCYA) since they do not reach the SPOs, who are the legitimate persons to report on youth development work by his/her department.

Most departments do not have a specific allocation for the implementation of youth development programmes, and this situation may emanate from the fact that youth development in itself is not effectively integrated into the strategic plans of departments and municipal IDPs. Approximately 20% of all departments have allocated a budget for youth programmes, and only 30% of the municipalities made such an allocation. About 60% of the departments implement youth programmes using a departmental capital budget.

Departments that allocate a budget to youth units implement more youth development programmes than those that do not, that is to say, there is a direct proportional relationship between budget allocation specific to youth development and the actual implementation of youth development programmes.

Approximately 50% of the departments implement capacity-building programmes for the youth. The programmes include bursaries, internships, volunteering and learnership. At the completion of studies, bursary holders undergo internship with possible employment or move straight to employment in the same department or municipality that has sponsored them.

About 40% of the departments have procurement provision for the youth, as opposed to 90% of the municipalities that do not have procurement provision for the youth. A lack of procurement provision for the youth illustrates that they do not enjoy preferential treatment and will always struggle to seize the economic opportunities created by the developments that are unfolding in their immediate areas. The exclusion of young people from economic opportunities by failing to create a system that will enable them to seize the economic opportunities renders youth-owned business unsustainable with a very short lifespan, as a result of lack of access to markets and opportunities.

The majority of departments co-operate on youth issues either as partners or as funders of the youth development programmes. However, co-operation is about awareness campaigns and not concrete programmes that create employment and give skills to many young people who are unemployed and unskilled. Where cooperation is in place, co-ordination is difficult and therefore some joint programmes do not succeed. Sharing the costs for joint programmes remains a challenge to the departments.

Approximately 70% of the departments have collaborated with municipalities in implementing youth development programmes. Departments indicated that collaboration with municipalities enables them to reach many young people in their localities, and in some cases, municipalities implement youth programmes on behalf of the departments. However, what remains a serious concern is the fact that departments, although they work with municipalities to implement youth development, bypass their Special Programmes Officers in their departments as well as the Youth Development Officers in those municipalities. This scenario leads to a situation where programmes, which are implemented, do not comply with principles of effective youth

development practice, and hence are mostly not developmental in the true sense of the word.

Some officials in the departments have only a partial knowledge of National Youth Policy and Youth Development Framework, and are not able to customize these policies to the functions of their respective departments.

Key issues that emerge from the findings above are the following:

- ❖ African youths are the majority in the Free State and they are also the most disadvantaged. Consequently all attempts at intervening on behalf of youths should mainly target the African youth.
- ❖ There is an inherent lack of skills particularly amongst the African and Coloured youth, which leads to high unemployment amongst these groups.
- ❖ Youths are both perpetrators and victims of wrong social behaviours. They are at risk by being exposed to risky sexual behaviour and HIV & AIDS and by being head of a household.
- ❖ Youth development is not adequately prioritised by both the local and district municipalities and government departments.
- ❖ Many African youths in particular would like to start their own businesses provided funding and support are available.

3.4. JUSTICE AND CRIME PREVENTION SECTOR

The Free State Province has 108 functioning/operational Community Policing Forums (CPFs) out of 108 police stations. From 1993 to 1995 the focus was on oversight by the police, which was characterised by the explicit monitoring and evaluation of the functions of the CPFs. From 1995 to 1997 the emphasis was on building the relationship between the police and the

community. The focus was on liaison and communication functions. In 1997 there was a shift to emphasising the establishment of a problem-solving-partnership approach to improve the police service and reduce crime.

Table 3.9 – Incidence of crime in the Free State

Crime	1994	1999	2000	Change
Murder	1 335	1 101	942	-29.4%
Rape and attempted rape	3 553	3 472	3 521	-0.9%
Robbery with aggravating circumstances.	2 968	2 169	2 081	-29.9%
Stock theft	6 819	6 147	5 924	-13.1%
Carjacking	173	184	152	-12.1%

Source: South African Institute of Race Relations, 2001/2002

On the whole there is a need for an integrated criminal justice service to ensure prompt and good service delivery. The key challenges are the lack of broader community involvement in CPF-initiated activities, the training of community members and the police in the philosophy of community policing and administrative support of CPFs by the SAPS.

The incidence of serious crime in the Free State has declined since 1994 (see Table 3.9). The most notable decline in the incidence of crime was in terms of murder, robbery and stock theft. This is significant since only 9% of South Africa's police officer staff are in the Free State. What is of concern, however, is that the number of escapes from police custody has increased by more than 20% from 1999 to 2000. This is substantially more than the national average of 7.6%.

The Free State is ranked fourth in terms of its number of prisoners (i.e. 8.4%). In 2001 the province had a prison population of 14 364 of which 10 911 were

already sentenced. Gauteng accounted for 26.4% of South Africa's prison population while Limpopo contributed only 3.1%.

3.5. EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), and over 780 pieces of legislation have created a framework for reshaping South Africa. Access to services is being improved by Multi-Purpose Community Centres (one per district by the end of 2004 and expanding to each municipality in the next decade), the introduction of Community Development Workers and the e-Government *batho pele* (people first) Gateway.

In 2002 the second King Report was published. The main Governance Principles & Guidelines as described in this report are given below:

- Accountability - render an account ; responsible to someone for an action or decision.
- Balanced entrepreneurial performance vs governmental standards
- Discipline - commitment to adhere to universally recognised and acceptable behaviour
- Fairness - balanced by taking everyone's interests into account
- Forward-looking and proactive governance
- Independence - the minimisation and avoiding of conflicts of interest
- Responsibility - called to account ; having control or authority; being accountable for one's actions and decisions.
- Social responsibility - awareness of, and response to, social issues
- Stakeholder-inclusiveness
- Meaningful disclosure
- Transparency- the ease with which an outsider can analyse an organisation's actions, economic fundamentals and relevant non-financial aspects

Policy and implementation are more integrated thanks to government's Cluster approach, provincial co-ordination, Integrated Development Plans in local government and the recently introduced National Planning Framework. A Code of Conduct for the Public Service is now part of the regulations for every public servant. The 1999 National Anti-Corruption Summit created a powerful platform for the National Campaign Against Corruption and helped establish whistle-blowing mechanisms, special corruption courts and the National Anti-Corruption Forum. New laws to fight corruption include the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act 2 of 2000), and the recent Prevention of Corruption Bill. The National Directorate of Public Prosecutions and the South African Police Service have acted against corrupt officials and white-collar crime. About 80% of corruption cases in government reported in the media are discovered by government.

The Free State established an Integrated Development Planning Alignment and Assessment Committee. The purpose of the committee is, amongst others, to assess the status of alignment of each municipality IDP with the provincial growth and development strategy. All provincial departments and parastatals (Telkom and Eskom) are serving on this committee. Each department identified an IDP dedicated official who deals with IDP issues at departmental level. The committee formulated criteria against which member departments assess the IDPs for alignment. Reports compiled from assessing IDPs are made available to the Department of Local Government and Housing and the MEC for Local Government and Housing. The Department of the Premier discusses individual reports with each municipality. There are varying responses towards supporting local and district municipalities in terms of attending all IDP sessions organised by municipalities for inputting into the IDP.