

UNECE Online Meetings on Migration Statistics, 26–28 October 2021

ABSTRACT

Title	Social impact of COVID-19 (Wave 3 ONLINE survey): Mobility and Migration in South Africa
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Session	Covid impact on immigrants and related population groups (27-28 October)

Social impact of COVID-19 (Wave 3 ONLINE survey): Mobility, Migration, in South Africa

MOBILITY

-Change in residence: About six per cent of respondents changed their provincial residence during the national lockdown. Of these respondents, the highest proportion moved during the few days between the announcement of the lockdown and the start of the lockdown. Regarding the reason for move, about one quarter of respondents indicated that they wanted to be closer to their family or friends.

Inter-provincial travel: Approximately 12% of respondents indicated that they travelled across provincial boundaries since the start of the national lockdown. More than a quarter of these respondents indicated that they crossed provincial boundaries to attend funerals, while about 15% of respondents travelled to provide essential services, and approximately 13% travelled for non-essential work or business related travel. About 15% of respondents travelled to visit family or friends.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

-Migrant respondents: About 90% of the respondents indicated that they were born in South Africa (non-migrants), whilst about nine per cent were international migrants (respondents indicated that they were born outside South Africa).

-Remittances: About 18% of migrants remitted during lock-down. About one-third of migrant respondents indicated that they remitted a smaller amount than they usually do. More than one-fifth of migrant respondents indicated that they did not remit during lock down because they could not afford to send money.

-Employment: A much larger percentage of migrant respondents (22,5%) were unemployed as compared to non-migrants (9%). The report emphasizes the important role of mobility and migration in the South African economy.

-Vulnerability: Results from the vulnerability framework show that migrant respondents were generally more vulnerable than non-migrant respondents.