

Lochner Marais



# SECONDARY CITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA: REFLECTIONS FROM EXISTING RESEARCH

T: 051 401 9111 [info@ufs.ac.za](mailto:info@ufs.ac.za) [www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za)

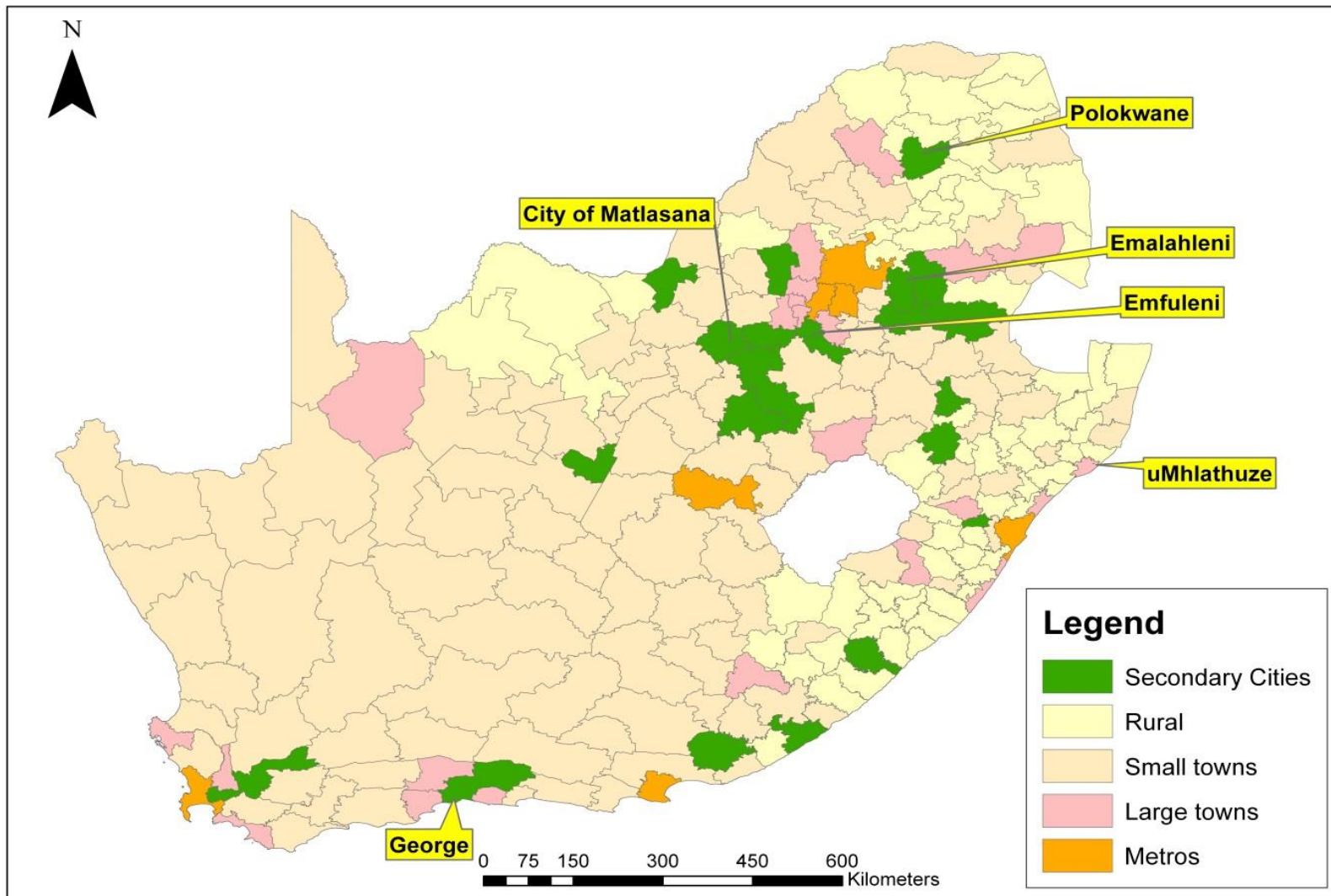
© Copyright reserved  
Kopiereg voorbehou

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA

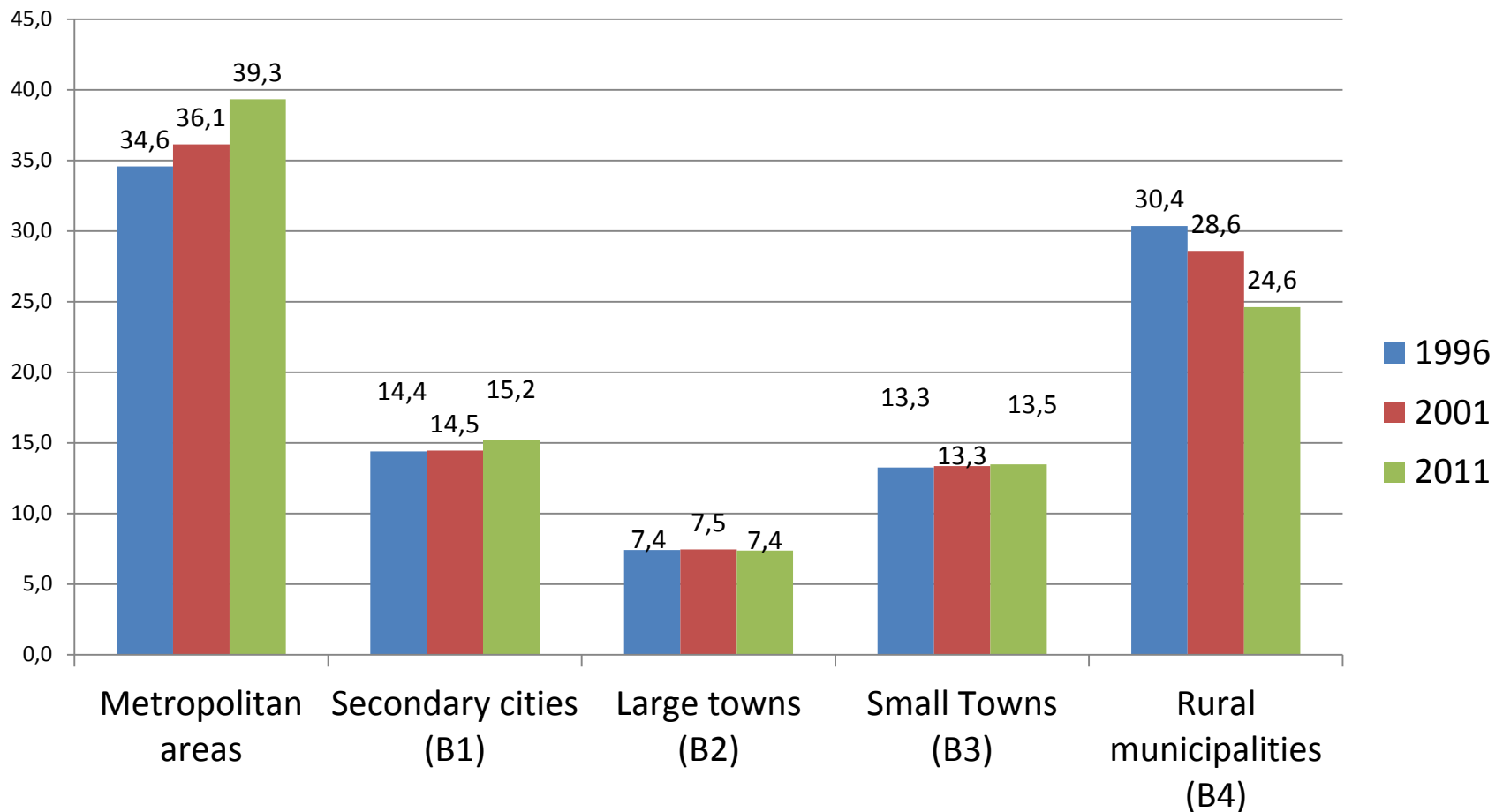


**UFS·UV**  
ECONOMIC AND  
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES  
EKONOMIESE EN  
BESTUURSWETENSAPPE

# LOCATION



# DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACROSS MUNICIPALITIES IN SA





# INTRODUCTION

- SACN study / methods: from starting the conversation to six case studies
- Edited book to be published by Routledge / Local Economy / paper on secondary cities and urbanisation
- Deeper reflections
- The theme: *Secondary cities: Infrastructure investment in growing cities*
- 10 points in this presentation
- **Main argument**: We need to understand the vulnerabilities associated with secondary cities and find appropriate ways of dealing with these vulnerabilities

# 1) OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS FROM THESE CITIES



- Residential desegregation / different forms of social capital developing
- All places gave distinct economic possibilities – place of distinct economies of scale



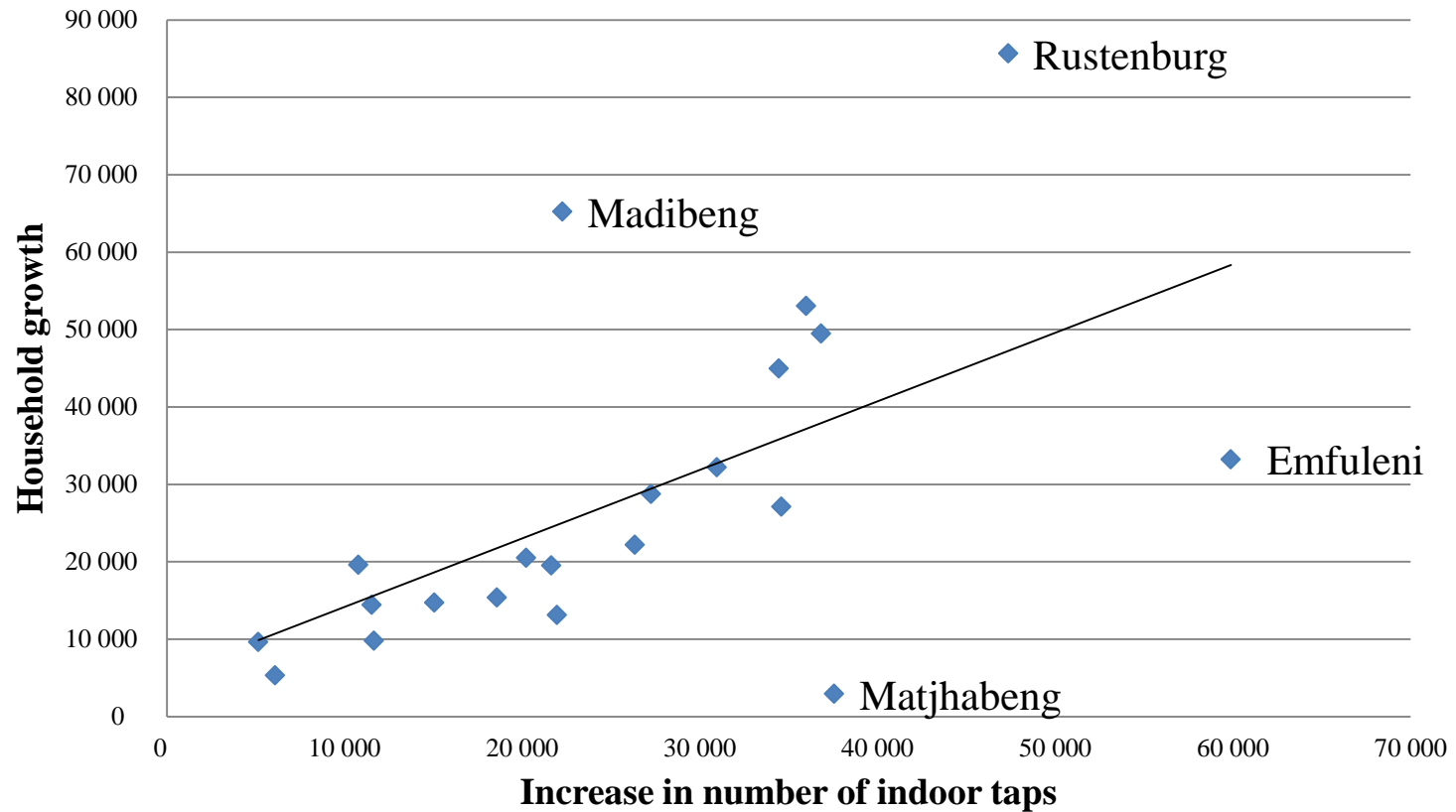
## 2) DEFINITION AND PRESSURES TO INCREASE THE METROS

- Intermediate cities vs secondary cities
- Pressure to increase the number of metropolitan areas
- Size, function and locational – many of the arguments based on one of the three key issues
- It is about a differentiated role / function
- Can we find differentiated functions, roles and responsibilities at the municipal sphere

### 3) MANAGING URBANISATION



- Central theme in literature
- Polokwane and Umhlathuze



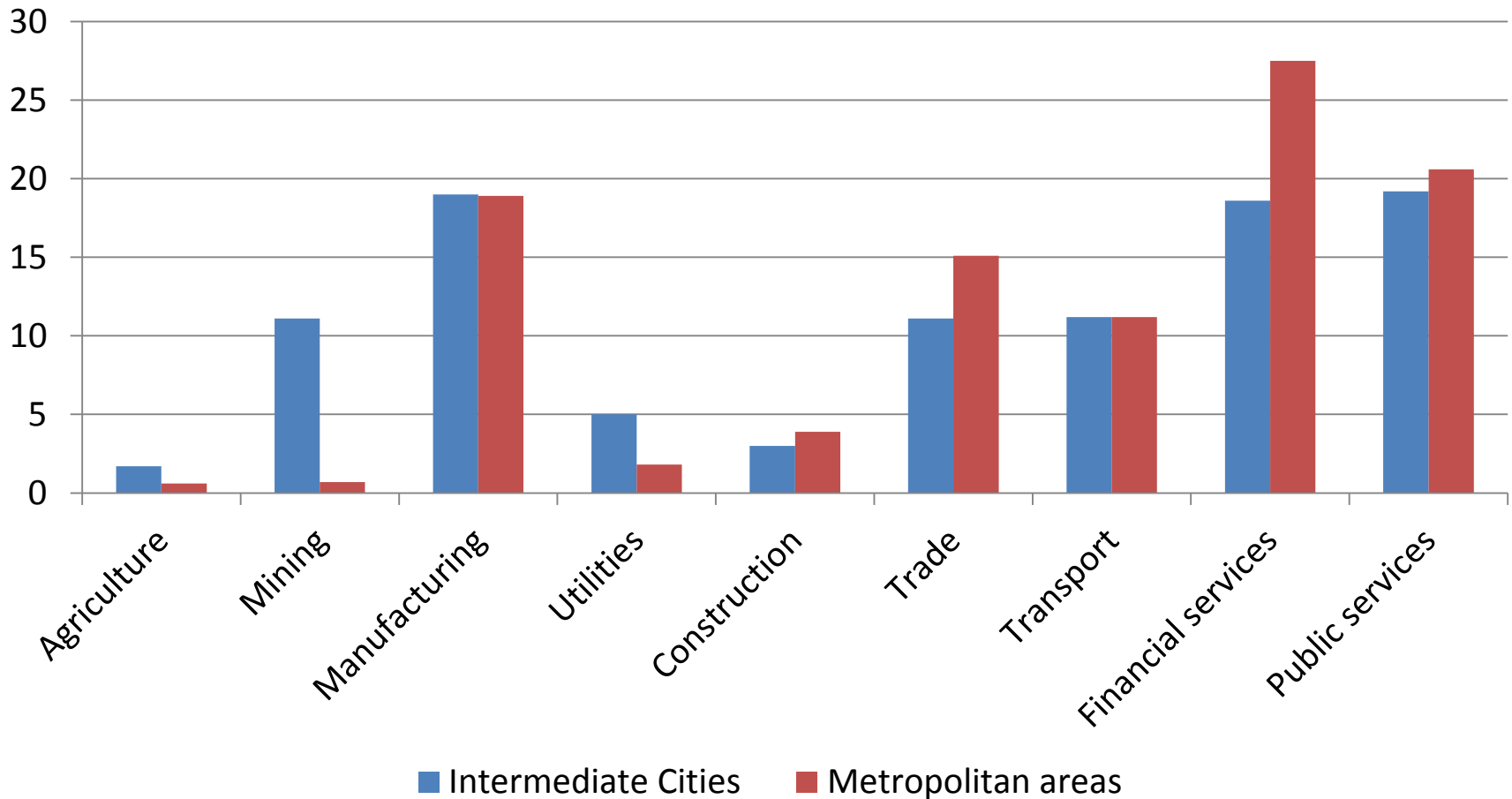


## 4) REGIONAL SERVICES ROLE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Important role - these cities mediate between metropolitan areas and rural areas / small towns
- All 6 case studies play a significant role in this respect
- What are the implications for rural development programmes?



## 5) ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND VULNERABILITY (FOR SIX CASE STUDIES)



## 6) SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES (BUT LARGELY IN COMMODITIES OR IN THE MINERAL-ENERGY COMPLEX)



- 11/21
- 4/6 case studies (uMhlatuze, eMalahleni, Matlosana and Emfuleni)
- George and Polokwane

## 7) STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPACITY



- Generally weak
- Long term planning virtually absent
- Evidence of municipal dependence on private sector service provision

## 8) MUNICIPAL FINANCE



- Average income from land tax for six case studies – 12% (lowest metro 12.2% - highest 20%).
- Service charges are also on average lower than the metros
- Infrastructure maintenance is also lower than that of the metros
- The risks on municipal finance in Emfuleni and uMhlathuze

## 9) ENVIRONMENTAL CONFRONTATIONS



- Acid mine water
- Water access



## 10) ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN FUTURE RESEARCH AND SUPPORT

- Infrastructure-maintenance and management against the reality of decline in the demand for commodities
- The overall impact of declining demand for commodities
- Consideration of impacts of national and sectoral policies on secondary cities
- Building a secondary city evidence database
- Dependence on freight, rail, road and air transport infrastructure
- Differentiation and municipal functions
- Institutional support to deal with vulnerabilities and opportunities
- Governance and planning
- Rethink pressure to increase metropolitan areas
- Investigate the possibilities of implementing “modular infrastructure”

THANK YOU

