

## Economic indicators for major urban areas

	<i>Economic growth</i>	<i>GDP per head</i>	
	<i>2007</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>2007</i>
		<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>
Bloemfontein	3.3%	23 639	29449
Cape Town	6.9%	33 726	44 879
Ekurhuleni Metropolitan	5.3%	26 544	28 924
eThekweni	5.4%	29 864	39 995
Johannesburg	5.4%	44 473	58 884
Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan	4.4%	28 834	38 532
Polokwane	6.1%	17 672	22 169
<u>Tshwane</u>	<u>6.1%</u>	<u>37 088</u>	<u>53 697</u>

*Source:* Global Insight Southern Africa

Of the eight urban areas in the project, Cape Town experienced the highest economic growth rate, with 6.9% growth. Cape Town was followed jointly by Tshwane and Polokwane with 6.1% growth experienced in each area. The lowest growth was seen in Bloemfontein, with a growth rate of only 3.3%.

GDP per head increased from R44 473 in 1996 to R58 884 in 2007 in Johannesburg. Tshwane had the second highest GDP per head figures after Johannesburg in both periods; with R37 088 in 1996 and R53 697 in 2007. The lowest figures were seen in Polokwane with R17 672 in 1996 and R22 169 in 2007.

In 2007, South Africa's economic policies saw respectable rates of economic growth and relatively low inflation, which resulted in South Africa's first-ever surplus. Major

challenges in South Africa's economy were, and still are; high unemployment, and high levels of inequality and poverty. The HIV / AIDS epidemic and high levels of crime also contributed to economic challenges.