

Title:

The socioeconomic integration of migrant and native-born day labourers in Tshwane, South Africa

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ABSTRACT

Literature concludes that unauthorised migrants experience difficult economic incorporation in destination countries. This is in particular applicable in the global North. Faced with limited opportunities to gain employment, many venture into informalising segments of the labour market where earnings are low and unstable (Theodore et al., 2017a). Much less is known about the socio-economics incorporation of migrant workers fare in the informal economy of cities of the South. In many of these cities, the informal economy absorbs large numbers of migrants. With increasing levels of migration to major cities, the informal economy has become an important arena of migrant incorporation (Theodore et al., 2017b). This process has far-reaching effects for lives and means of support. This paper aims to contribute to this literature by investigating the socio-economic outcomes of South African and foreign born day labourers in Tshwane, South Africa. This is done using surveys

conducted in 2004, 2007 and 2015. The paper employs a mixed method approach, with qualitative and quantitative elements. To explore the determinants of weekly earnings, cross-sectional regression analyses were conducted. This study suggests the informal economy can play a significant role in shaping the context of reception for immigrants in the new gateway cities of the global South. In 2004 there were signs that foreign-born workers enjoyed modestly better outcomes compared to South Africa-born workers. In the next decade these advantages have disappeared and there are indications of a downward convergence of economic outcomes.

Keywords: Zimbabwe; migrant; informal economy; socio-economic circumstances; day labourer

JEL: J46, 61, R23

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The complete paper is therefore not produced here for copy-right purposes but is available from International Migration at:

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