



POPULATION MOVEMENT IN THE FREE STATE: EXPLORING TRENDS WRT SMALL TOWNS

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UFS·UV
ECONOMIC AND
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EKONOMIESE EN
BESTUURSWETENSAPPE

PRESENTATION OUTLINE



- Small towns and demographics: existing research
- Small town migration trends in the Free State and how small towns trends feature within the Free State

SMALL TOWN POPULATION TRENDS: SOME NOTES FROM NEL, HILL AND ATKINSON 2011



- Contrary to the rather pessimistic claims made in the 1970s, South African small towns in the Karoo have generally not experienced net population loss (Nel et al 2011)
- Urban population of Karoo small towns has experienced a massive increase of 307% over nearly 100 years
- In general urban growth (although rural populations decline)

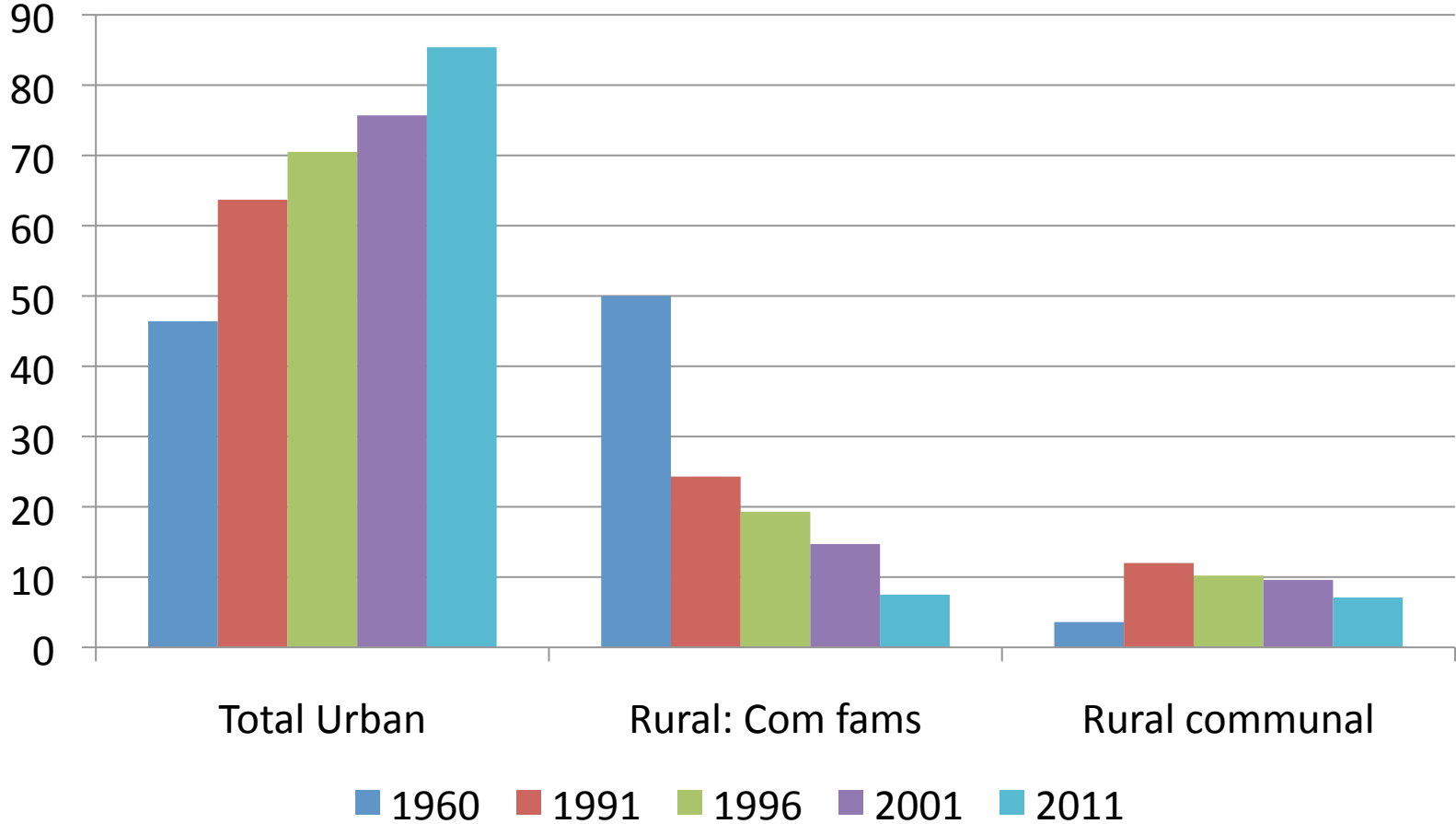
MARAIS AND PELSER 2005



- Large scale decline of people residing on commercial farming land (main reasons mechanisation, tenure legislation)
- Decline / stagnation of population numbers in former homeland areas
- General high growth in urban areas since 1991 (including small towns)

- In summary: Despite rural declining numbers small towns have seen significant population growth between 1991 and 2001.

URBAN RURAL CHANGE IN THE FREE STATE

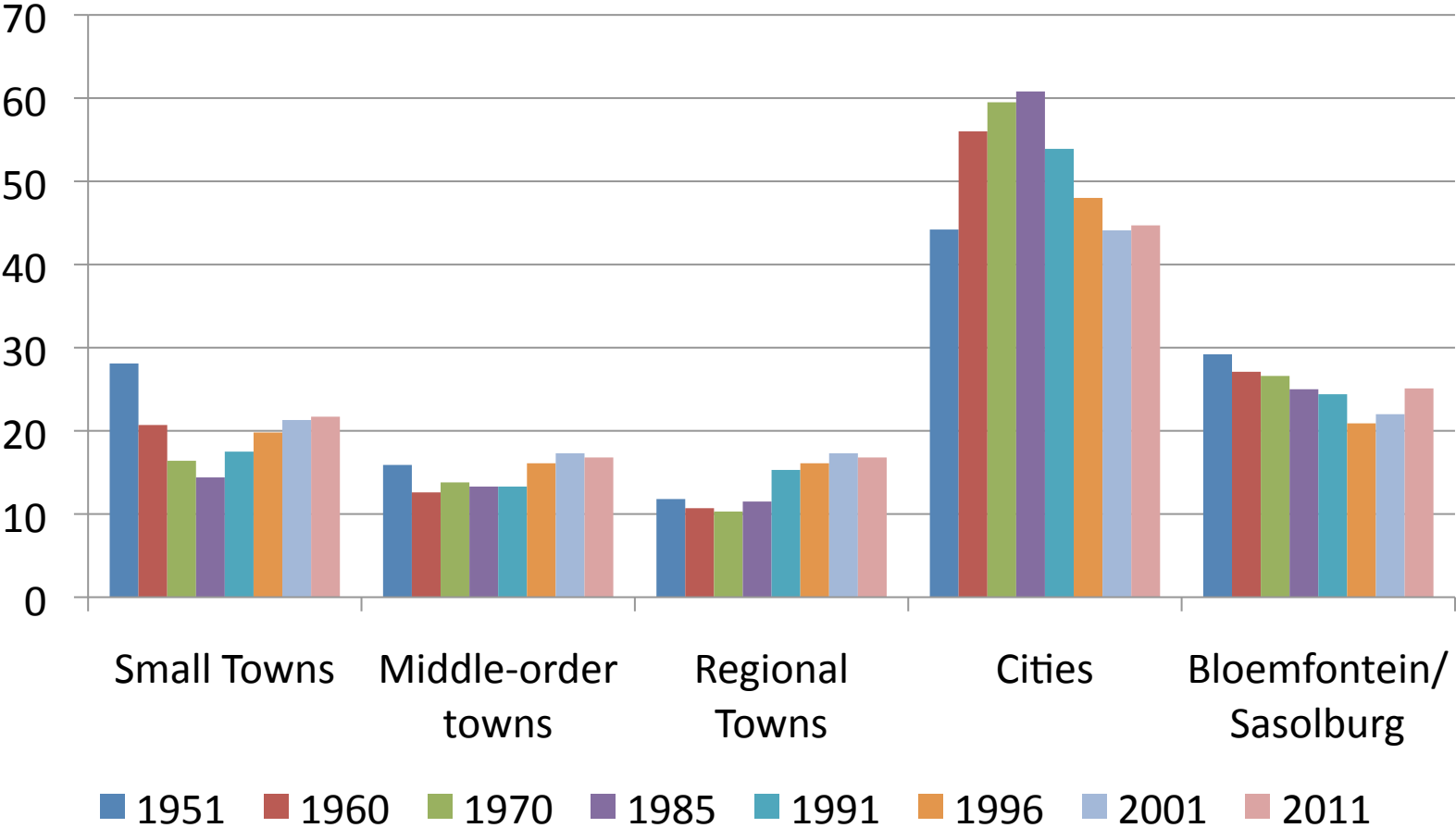


CATEGORISATION

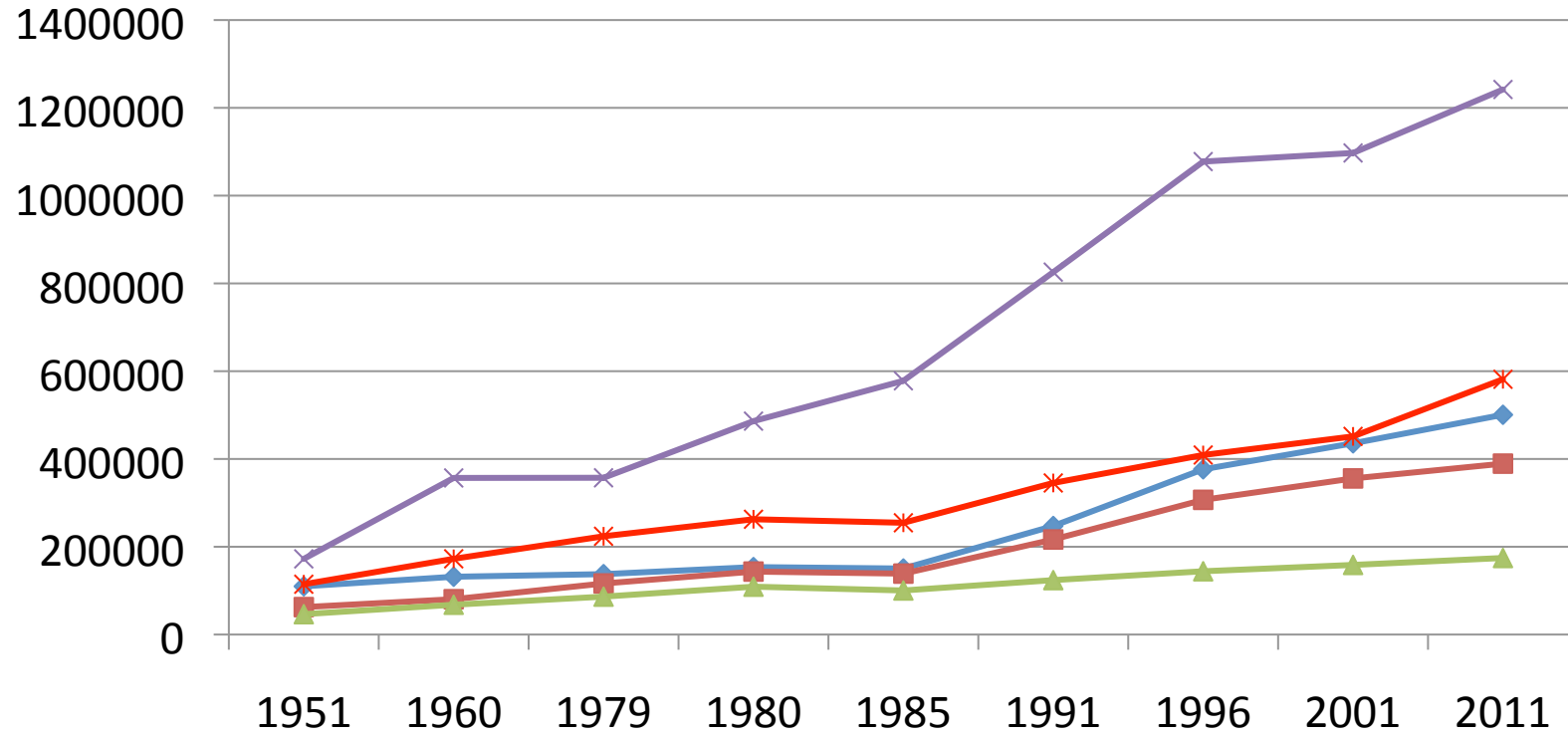


- Cities
- Regional Towns
- Middle order towns
- Small towns

SHARE OF THE FS URBAN POPULATION



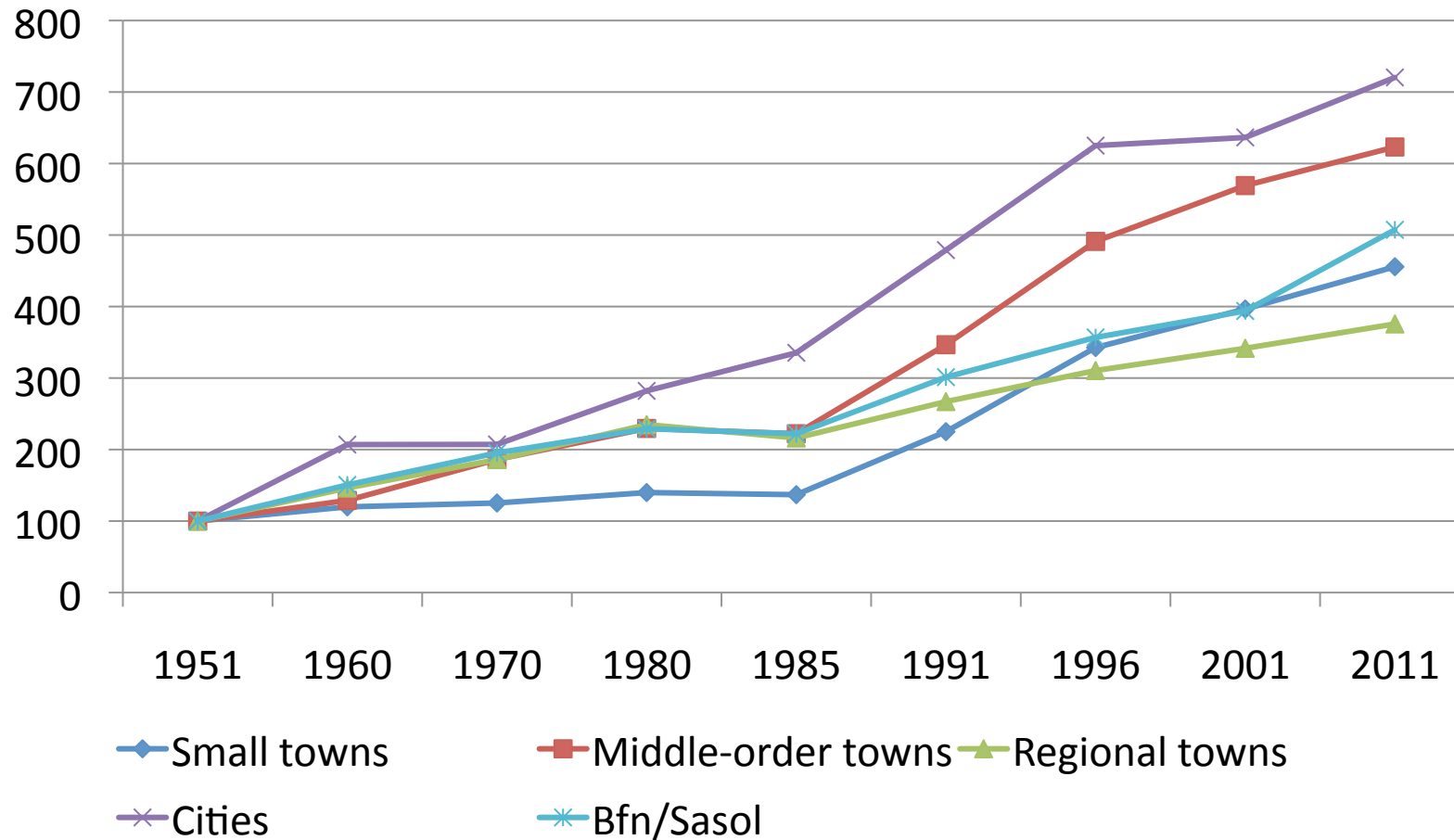
POPULATION NUMBERS



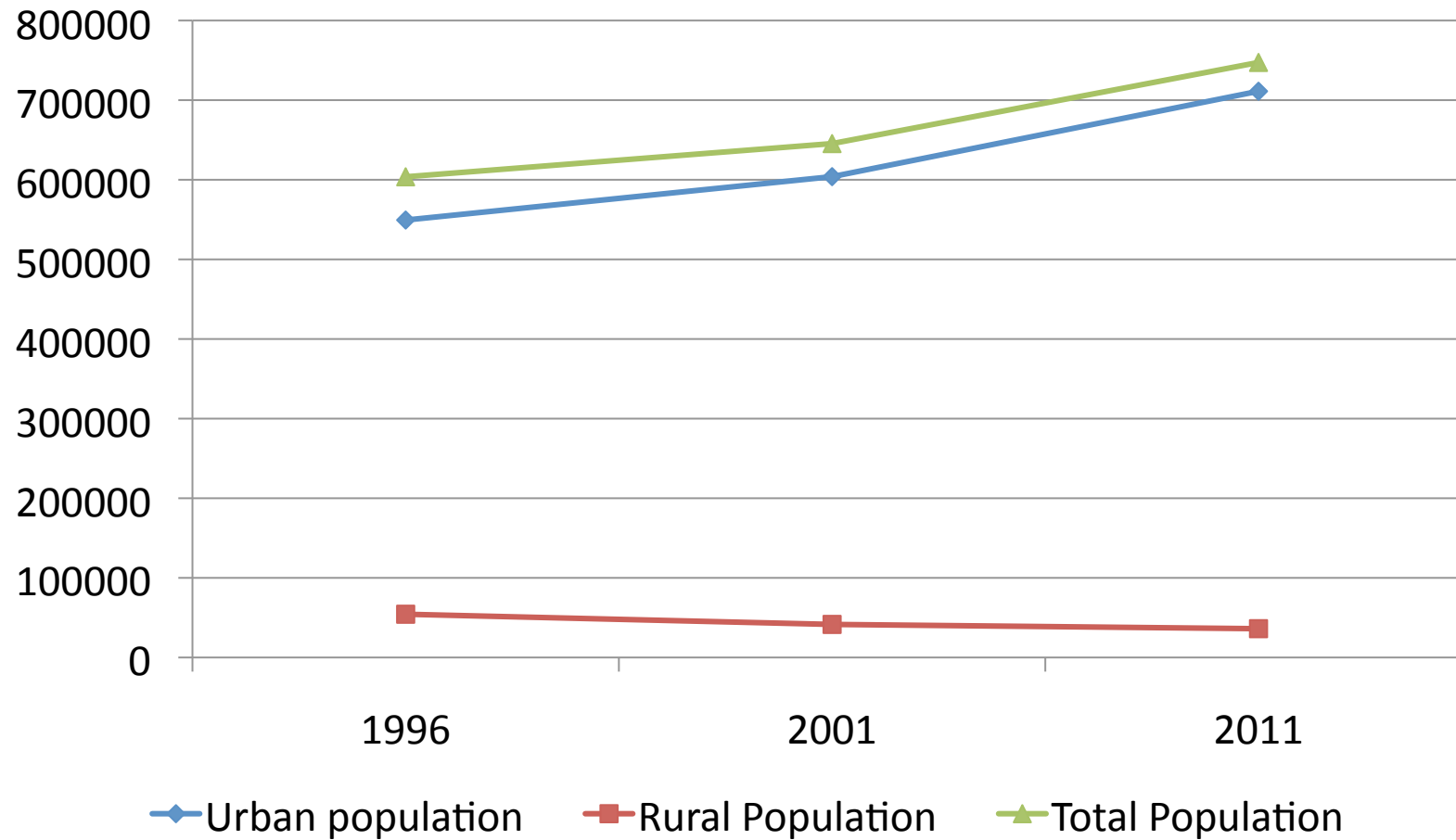
- ◆ Small towns
- Middle-order towns
- ▲ Regional towns
- ✕ Cities
- ✱ Bfn/Sasol



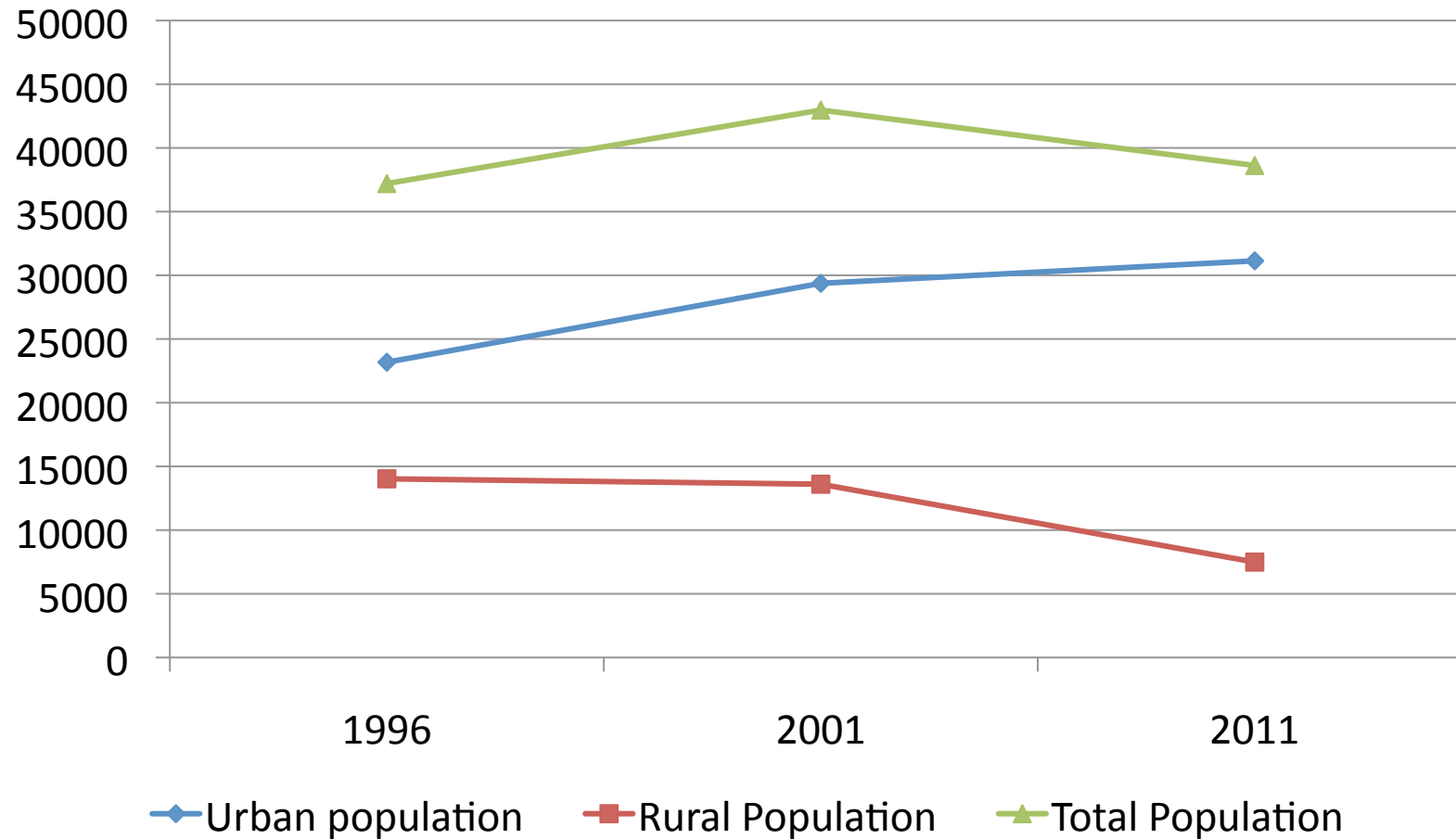
POPULATION GROWTH (TAKING THE 1951 FIGURES AS 100%)



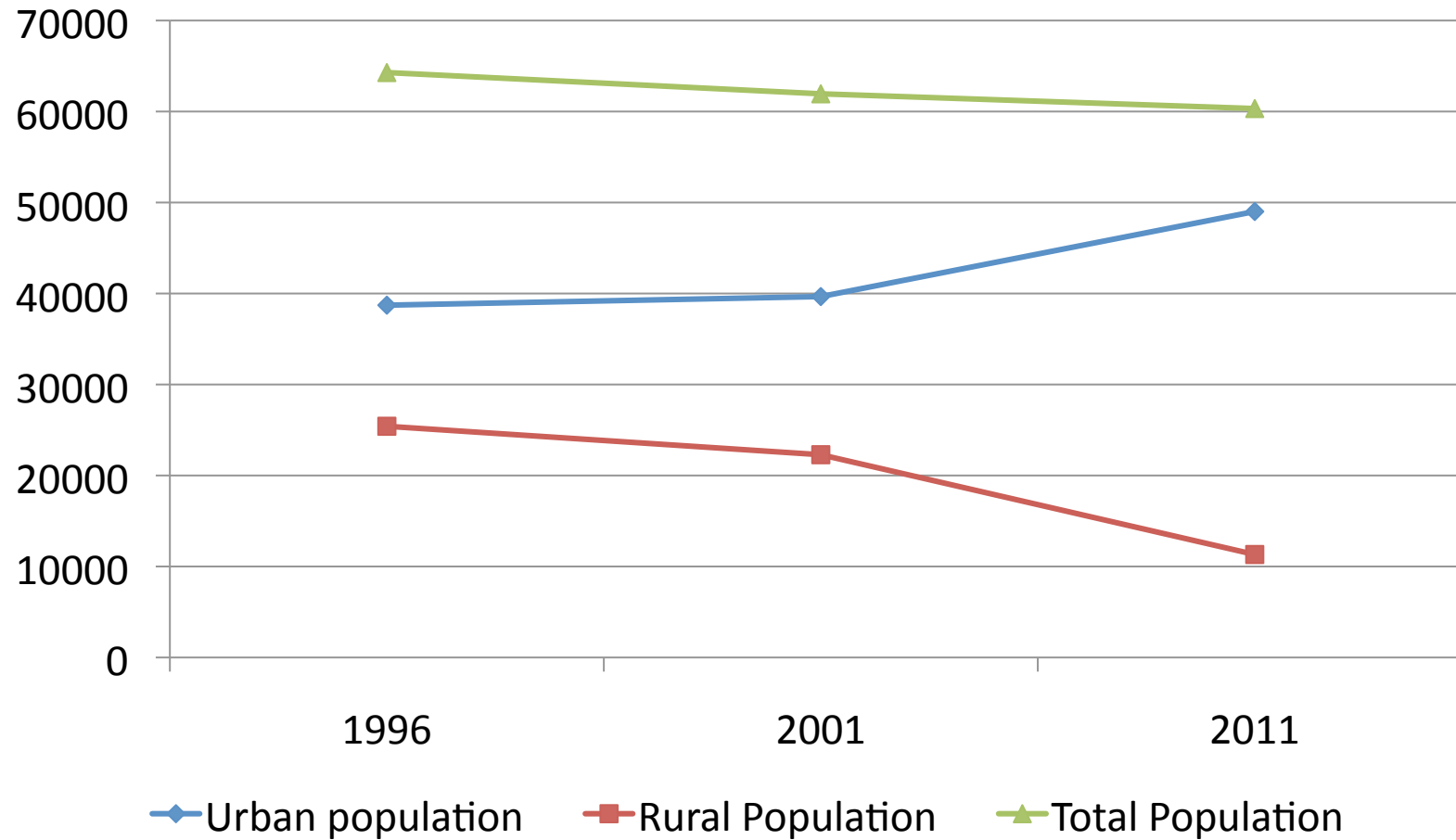
TYPICAL PROFILE OF FREE STATE MUNICIPALITY 1 (MANGAUNG EXAMPLE)



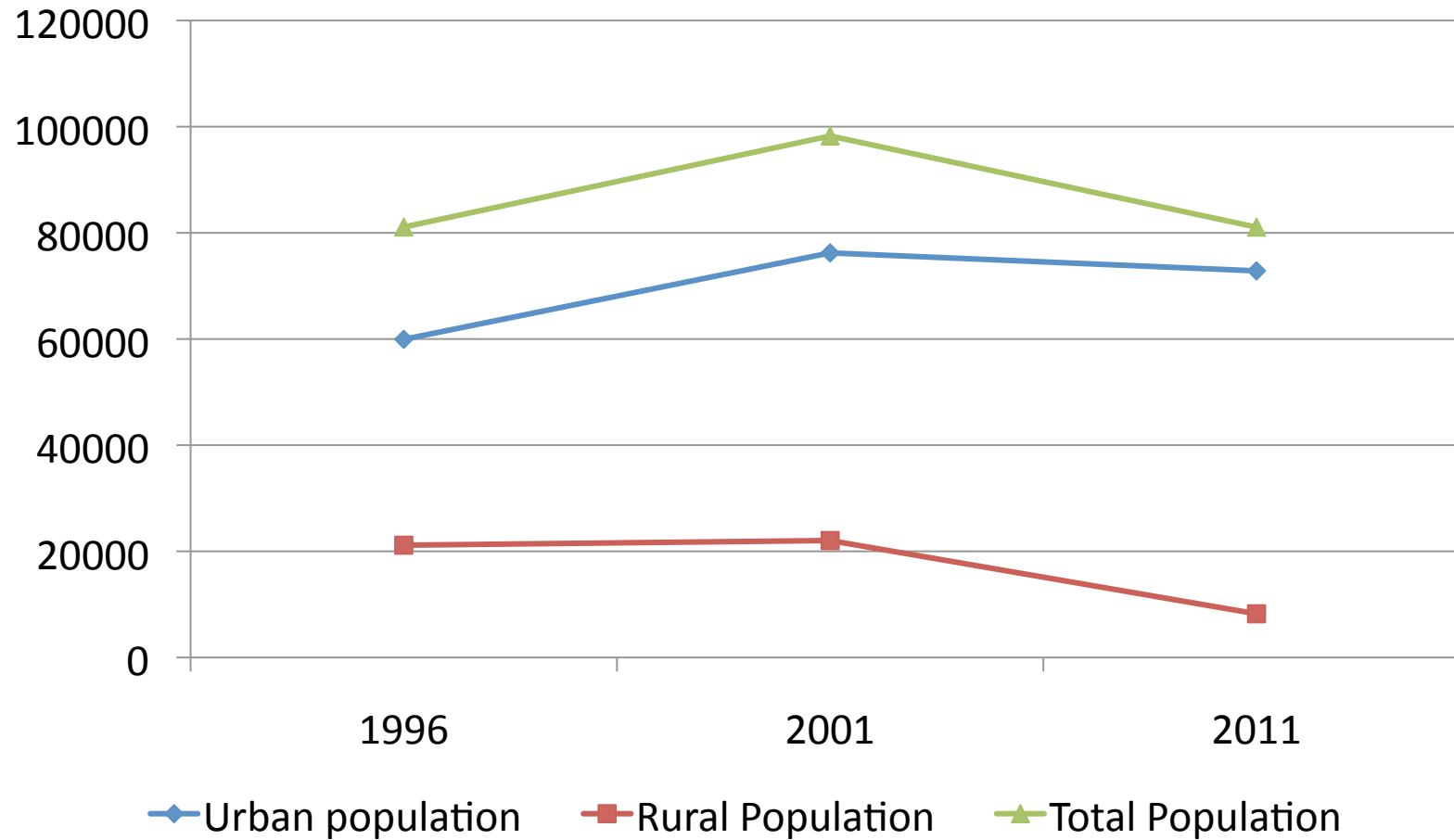
TYPICAL PROFILE OF FREE STATE MUNICIPALITY (SOUTHERN FS EXAMPLE)



TYPICAL PROFILE OF FREE STATE MUNICIPALITY (NORTHERN FREE STATE)



BUT THIS IS ALSO EMERGING (NALA)



NEW TRENDS



- Low growth and in some places negative growth in small town municipalities
- Some selected small towns are loosing people in terms of real numbers since 2001 (13/80 urban areas; 10/57 small towns; 1/8 middle order towns)
- Southern Free State but also in the NFS
- Border towns

- In conclusion: There are indications of population decline in Free State small towns (not necessarily linked to mining decline)
- Policy implications
- Future research: