Both urban and rural development is important in South Africa. Both require effective policies to ensure its sustainable economic and social development. However, the differentiation between the two is complex. This presentation makes use of non-spatial and spatial statistical techniques to give insights on these complexities, it shows the trends across the three census periods (1996, 2001 and 2011), and looks at their policy implications for inclusive growth and development.

**Key Words:** urban, rural, South Africa, spatial, non-spatial