



URBAN-ECON

# Company Profile

Celebrate **Development** Diversity





# About URBAN-ECON

**URBAN-ECON** Development Economists (Pty) Ltd is a professional consultancy firm specialising in the field of development economics. Development economics, as advocated by **URBAN-ECON**, refers to the field of research where spatial principles are applied in an economic context.

**URBAN-ECON** combines specialised skills, extensive experience, professional ethics and personal service delivery to provide appropriate and practical economically viable solutions. A personal approach in efficient service delivery ensures that project deliverables align with the clients' needs, therefore equipping the client with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions.

## URBAN-ECON Now – Offering More!

Thirty years after its formation in 1985, **Urban-Econ** continues to be unrivalled as the largest and one of the leading authorities in the field of development economics, both in South Africa and the Southern African region. Through its consistent approach of innovation in an ever-changing environment; its dedication to dynamic problem solving; its commitment to ethical, objective and professional service, **URBAN-ECON** remains at the forefront of this exciting field of development.

The success of the company is underpinned by its highly skilled and qualified team of professional development economists, supplemented with up-to-date economic analytical techniques, qualitative and quantitative assessments, and robust methodologies. The wealth of knowledge and experience gained in economic research and

analysis, strategic planning, impact assessment, and development facilitation across the full spectrum of economic sectors and throughout a significant expanse of development territories, enables **URBAN-ECON** to truly **CELEBRATE DEVELOPMENT DIVERSITY!**

**URBAN-ECON's** network of regional offices, covering all the provinces in South Africa, allows for extensive local knowledge of regional challenges, dynamics and development directions, resulting in matchless and unequalled insight into the development needs of each region and a complete hands-on approach to addressing the unique needs and requirements of each client, programme or project. In this way, the final product is uniquely satisfactory and appropriate.





# Why URBAN-ECON?

**Our vast track record, years of experience and skilled staff complement, forms the foundation for our outstanding service offering:**

- Understanding of ever-changing local, regional and global dynamics
- Customised, practical solutions that meet the unique needs of each client
- Cutting-edge and innovative solutions
- Sound research and analytical techniques
- Professional services and quality products.

## Consulting Services

**URBAN-ECON** is the only economic development consultancy in Southern Africa that has been successfully operational for three decades. This is reflected in our trusted and tried, yet innovative and adventurous approach towards providing and serving economic advice in our current environment.

**URBAN-ECON's unique market focus includes the following:**

- **Market leader** in providing economic development consulting services in Southern Africa
- Applies **expert academic knowledge** and **practical experience** in economic development issues, to render market related and implementable solutions to assist the client in critical **economic decision making**
- Believes the integration of the various components of development economics, namely economic market focus, spatial aspects, sustainable planning,

and strategic development facilitation ensures a **holistic approach is taken in addressing market failures**

- Prides itself in providing **objective and innovative solutions** to a wide range of economic problems in any developmental context.

**URBAN-ECON** provides unique consulting services by analysing the **local economic profile and trends** through the application of **economic techniques** to identify **sectoral growth potential**, which is then interpreted in terms of the identification of **development opportunities** within each sector.

The firm has **coordinated and managed various large projects**, inclusive of data-related projects, analysing and profiling exercises, impact assessments of projects and programmes, as well as strategic developmental projects. Throughout the decades, the company has managed to establish a close team of specialists with extensive experience and expertise in various fields of studies, positioning it at the forefront of development economics in the country.

## Capabilities

**URBAN-ECON** provides consulting services based on world-class research and development planning solutions in all its dimensions. **URBAN-ECON's** approach is one of specialisation across a range of fields, illustrating the diversified nature of the company's services, as well as the depth of knowledge on offer.

## Our Services

- Economic Development Potential Investigations
- Strategic Planning for Job Creation & Poverty Alleviation
- Master Planning
- Industry Research & Sectoral Analysis
- Socio-Economic Surveys & Analysis
- Market Demand Assessment
- Feasibility Studies
- Business Plan Formulation
- Economic Impact Assessment
- Economic Modelling & Projection
- Development Funding Application & Facilitation
- Programme Evaluation
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Institutional Development
- Investment Attraction
- Incentive Packaging

### Industries

- Agri-Business
- Mining, Metals & Mineral Beneficiation
- Manufacturing
- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Property
- Green Economy
- Technology & Innovation
- Tourism

### Functions

- Economic Planning
- Economic Techniques
- Project Implementation
- Enterprise Development
- Policy & Strategy Development

# Specialisation

The approach that **URBAN-ECON** follows is based on the integration of the various components of development economics namely, economic market focus, spatial aspects, sustainable planning and strategic development facilitation. Economic development opportunities are identified, spatial planning parameters drawn up and implementation guidelines specified in terms of facilitating actions. The strength in this approach lies in that practical solutions to intricate problems, based on market principles, are provided, which ensures the economic feasibility of projects.

**URBAN-ECON provides the following specialist services:**

## Economic Techniques

- Impact Assessment
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Value Chain Analysis
- Monitoring & Evaluation



## Economic Planning

- Local Economic Development
- Economic Development Plans
- Incentives & Funding
- Industrial Strategies



## Development Facilitation & Implementation

- Project Initiators
- Project Concept Formulation
- Business Plans
- Feasibility Studies
- Sourcing of Development Funds



## Innovation & Sustainable Development

- Mineral & Natural Resource Sectors
- Localisation Studies
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Inputs for EIAs
- SED & RE Plan Formulation for RE Projects



## Property Development Service

- Property Studies
- Market Studies
- Socio-Economic Studies
- GIS
- Household Surveys
- Consumer & Perception Surveys



## Enterprise Development SMME & Cooperatives

- Second Economy Studies
- Policy Formulation
- Enterprise Development
- Source Funding for SMMEs
- Sourcing of Development Funds



## Agri-Business & Rural Development

- Agro-Economics
- Rural Development
- Strategic Master Planning
- Project Conceptualisation, Planning & Feasibility Assessment
- Business Planning
- Policy Formulation
- Institutional Evaluation & Strengthening



## Infrastructure Support

- Transport Mode Economic Modelling
- Macro-Economic Support Services: Urban/Regional Infrastructure, Water, Mining, Power, Waste, Transportation Planning



## Tourism & Research Planning

- Policy & Strategic Planning
- Market Research & Analysis
- Feasibility Studies & Business Plans
- Route Planning & Development
- Project Conceptualisation, Planning & Implementation
- Hospitality Industry Planning & Research



# Services & Branches

**URBAN-ECON** employs more than 100 professionals from diverse economic, technical, and developmental disciplines. In order to capitalise on the existing expertise in the company, while taking advantage of the spatial distribution of offices, **URBAN-ECON** established specialised units that represent not only the diversified nature of the company's services, but illustrate the depth of its knowledge and capabilities.

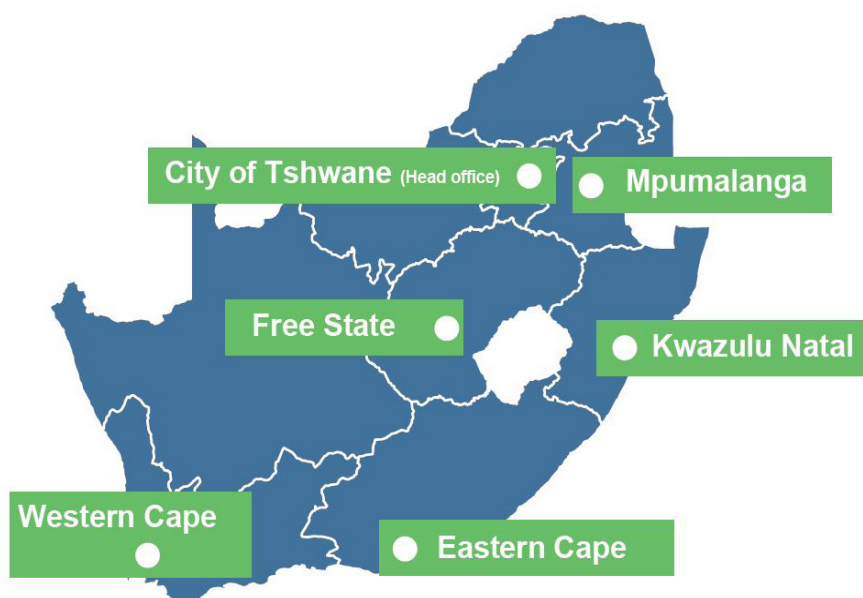
In our endeavour for excellence, we diversified our service offering – but in a focussed manner - by establishing seven specialist service provider units covering the entire scope of our expertise:



**URBAN-ECON** provides consulting services based on world-class research and development planning solutions in all its dimensions, as manifested in the economy and development community, to provide innovative and sustainable answers.

**URBAN-ECON** has developed a network of satellite companies to service Southern African communities as well as international clients in a cost-effective and efficient manner with offices in the following major centres: City of Tshwane, Western Cape, Kwazulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and the Free State.

Although units specialise in the regional circumstances of their area of location or expertise, the strong interaction between the branches and specialist units ensures constant updating of resources, experience, knowledge and technology. This equips the firm as a whole to approach any economic developmental problem in a dynamic and authoritative manner.





# Empowerment

## Empowerment

**URBAN-ECON** supports and promotes affirmative action and empowerment as effectively as possible. This has been achieved by developing the firm’s internal policy and adhering to legislation. Urban-Econ is committed to and promotes, empowerment and transformation by subscribing to BBBEE codes. The policy has been developed and improved over the years with positive progress as indicated below.

STRATEGY	PROGRESS
BBBEE Scorecard	BBBEE rating Level 3
HDI & PDI Ownership	50% & 25%
Ownership in a HDI company	Established 5 with HDI Ownership
Training Programmes	On-going internal & external
Racial and Gender Equality	On-going recruitment & internships
Networking	On-going with SMMEs
Project Empowerment Programme	Continuous capacity building on project basis
In-Service Training	On-going employee support

Urban-Econ Development Economists (Pty) Ltd is a Level 3 BBBEE contributor achieved through the following element scores:

Ownership	18.00
Management Control	4.21
Skills Development	23.45
Enterprise & Skills Development	39.46
Socio-Economic Development	5.00
Total Score	90.12



# Credentials

## Agri-business

- Potential for Development of a Commercial Tilapia Industry in South Africa, IDC
- Training of REID Officials on Cooperatives, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- Development of North West Agro-Processing Strategy
- Camdeboo Satellite Aquaculture Project Market Demand Assessment Catfish Products, Cacadu District Municipality
- Catfish Farm Marketing Strategy
- Bakgatla Aquaculture Feasibility Analysis
- The dti Sugar Beneficiation Research
- Marula Beneficiation Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality
- Market demand and Value-chain of Bee-keeping in South Africa
- Economic Evaluation of Market Value of 3 farms with Irrigation Infrastructure and Water Rights
- SEDA Essential Oils Business Incubator Programme

## Property Development Services

- HDA Limpopo Local Municipal Housing Demand Studies for 6 Municipalities
- HDA Northern Cape Rental Market Model
- DBSA SIP 6 District Profiling & Opportunity Identification for 23 District Municipalities
- SAPOA Western Cape Role and Value of the Property Sector
- Department of Human Settlements NUSP
- City of Tshwane, Rustenburg & Madibeng Local Municipalities Informal Settlement Upgrading
- SAPOA KZN Role and Impact of Property Sector
- SAPOA Municipal Service Cost Update
- Roossenekal Foods KFC Township Store Market Penetration Model

## Economic Intelligence

- Gautrain Impact Assessment
- South African Broadcasting Industry Economic Modelling
- National Waste Discharge Charge System
- Job Creation in the Construction Industry
- Economic Value of Water
- Eskom Majuba Railway Development Macroeconomic Impact

- North West Provincial Development Plan
- Tshwane Industrial Strategy
- ESTA Amendment Bill RIA
- Gariep Dam Bulk Water S&E Feasibility
- Baralink Economic Evaluation
- AIDC Value Proposition
- Transport Energy Reduction Impact
- RIA Land Tenure Cost Benefit Analysis
- NFVF Funding Impact
- DOT Road Infrastructure Policy
- DBSA Water Loss Evaluation
- Mountain View Dam EIA
- Gauteng Gambling EIA
- Waste-To-Energy Market Entry Study

## Economic Planning

- Gauteng Vision 2055
- Gauteng Viability Assessment of Local Municipalities
- Northern Cape Manufacturing Strategy
- North West Provincial Development Plan
- Free State PGDS
- Free State Economic Profile
- Free State Provincial Growth & Development Strategy
- Northern Cape LED
- Polokwane Investment Promotion Strategy
- John Taolo Gaetsewe District GDS Review
- Regional & Industrial Plans for Sedibeng & West Rand
- NC Trade and Investment Strategy

## Innovation & Sustainable Development

- Localisation Potential of Photovoltaic (PV) Technology and Strategy to Support Large-Scale Roll-Out in South-Africa
- Wind Energy Industry Localisation Roadmap
- Feasibility Establishing a Manufacturing Facility of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Technology Components
- Assessment of Policy to Enable Implementation of Energy Efficiency in Building Sector
- Lesedi Socio-Economic and Enterprise Development Investment Plans
- Northern Cape Renewable Energy Strategy
- Macro-Economic Impact Assessment of Sere Wind & CSP-1 Projects (Eskom)
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Coal-fired Power Station in Lephalale

- Socio-Economic Study of Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ)
- Go-to-Market Strategy for the Thin film Manufacturing Facility

## Project Implementation

- Nkomazi Cotton Project Implementation
- Baviaanskloof Agri-Rehabilitation Implementation
- Lufhereng Agri -Estate Implementation Strategy
- Bakgatla Ba Kgafela (BBK) Master Plan Implementation
- Manunda Tribal Authority Development Facilitation
- Lufhereng City Enterprise Development
- Camdeboo Aquaculture Jobs Fund Application
- Thohoyandou Mother and Child Private Hospital Application

## Tourism Planning & Research

- Gauteng Tourism Infrastructure Project and Investment Portfolio
- Camdeboo Township Tourism Programme
- Accessible Tourism Study for the dti.
- June 16th Heritage Trail Soweto Feasibility
- Koukamma Municipality Responsible Tourism Sector plan
- Inyaka Dam Master Plan
- Mpumalanga Cultural and Creative Hub
- Cape Town Tourism Development Framework
- Gert Sibande Tourism Strategy
- St. Mache Masemola Tourism Cluster Master Plan
- God's Window Skywalk Business Plan
- Capricorn Tourism Strategy Review
- Cultural Industries Growth Strategy Review
- Rwanda Adventure Tourism Master Plan
- North West Provincial Tourism Strategy
- Hazelmere Dam Tourism Feasibility Assessment
- Apartheid Museum Feasibility
- Feasibility study & Business Plan for a Craft Emporium in eThekweni
- Eastern Cape Tourism Master Plan
- Ntenetyana Dam Tourism Feasibility
- Eastern Cape Tourism Statistics Framework



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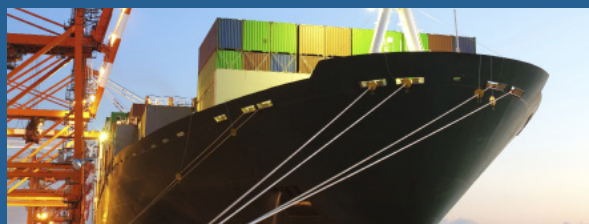
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