Ageing and Migration Trends

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Introduction and outline

• Aims
• The context of migration
• Regional patterns of migration
• The urban-rural dimension
• Main findings – a summary
• Thinking about the future
The context of migration

- Within-UK (internal) migration of older people is much more substantial than international.
- Migration rates vary greatly by age, with older people moving least.
- But elderly migration is very ‘efficient’ – smallest ‘counterstream’.
- Distinguish between ‘retirement migration’ and old-elderly migration: especially long-distance versus local-defensive.
International migration by age group
(Source: ONS International Migration statistics)

Total international migration, UK, 2000, by age

- Inflow
- Outflow
- Balance
% residents living at a different address from one year before, by age group
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

## Life-course transitions linked to migration

(Source: after Warnes, 1992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Repeat frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaving parent’s home</td>
<td>16-22</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1+ per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual union</td>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>Short</td>
<td>0.3 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career position</td>
<td>23-30</td>
<td>Many long</td>
<td>0.5 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First child</td>
<td>23-30</td>
<td>Short/med</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-career promotion or inheritance</td>
<td>30-55</td>
<td>Many long</td>
<td>0.1 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>27-50</td>
<td>Short</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohabitation / second marriage</td>
<td>27-50</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>0.1 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>55-68</td>
<td>Many long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bereavement or income collapse</td>
<td>70+</td>
<td>Short/return</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frailty or chronic illness</td>
<td>75+</td>
<td>Short</td>
<td>0.3 per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional patterns of migration

- London is the main driver of within-UK migration, with large overall net exodus.
- Same applies to older age groups, with South West, East of England and East Midlands as main gaining GORs.
- Net shifts biggest for 45-59s, then 60-74s, but London also loses 75+s.
- But London loses even more 30-44s who will age at destination (and 0-15s).
London GOR is main driver of migration. SW, E Mids and East are the main gainers
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
Ditto for older age groups: shift biggest for 45-59s, then 60-74s, but also 75+
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration balance, older groups, 2000-01, Government Office Regions and England

-15000 -10000 -5000 0 5000 10000

North East  North West  Yorks/ Humb  East Mids  West Mids  East  London  South East  South West  England

45-59  60-74  75+
But London loses even more 30-44 year olds who will age at destination (and 0-15s)
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration balance, age groups, 2000-01,
Government Office Regions and England
A closer look at net migration by broad age (NB 30-44s) for all GORs except London
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
And what % impact on the population? (1)
All GORs, all age groups
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration rate, age groups, 2000-01,
Government Office Regions and England
And what % impact on the population? (2)
All GORs bar London, all age groups
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration rate, age groups, 2000-01,
Government Office Regions (excluding London)
And what % impact on the population? (3)
All GORs bar London, older age groups
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
The urban-rural dimension
(using 2001 Census datafile provided by DEFRA’s Rural Evidence-based Research Centre, Birkbeck College)

- What is the pattern at sub-regional scale?
- Analysis by size of urban area, for North & South of England separately
- Then, more detailed analysis for rural settlements
- Expect to find ‘counterurbanization’ for most age groups (except young adults),
- but possibly a retreat from the remoter rural areas by the most elderly
Analysis by age group & size of urban area, for North of England
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
Analysis by age group & size of urban area, for South of England
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration balance, age groups, 2000-01, South of England by size of urban area

-40000 -30000 -20000 -10000 0 10000 20000 30000
0-15 16-19 20-24 25-29 30-44 45-59 60-74 75+

London UA 250-750k 100-250k 25-100k 10-25k Other
Analysis by size of urban area & age group, for North of England
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration balance, age groups, 2000-01, North of England by size of urban area

- 5 conurbns
- 250-750k
- 100-250k
- 25-100k
- 10-25k
- Other

- 0-15
- 16-19
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30-44
- 45-59
- 60-74
- 75+
Analysis by size of urban area & age group, for South of England
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
Analysis by size of urban area & age group, for North and South of England
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
Analysis by size of urban area & older ages, for North and South of England
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
More detailed analysis for rural settlement:
England as a whole, all ages
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
More detailed analysis for rural settlement:
England, age groups, Rural Towns & Other
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration rate, age groups,
for Rural Towns and Other Rural, England

% residents in age group

-10 -8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4

0-15 16-19 20-24 25-29 30-44 45-59 60-74 75+

Rural Towns  Villages & scattered
More detailed analysis for rural settlement: England, RT and VS by remote, age groups
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
More detailed analysis for rural settlement: Yorkshire & Humber, ditto (Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration rate, age groups, for Rural Towns (RT) and Other (VS), by Remote, Yorks & Humb
More detailed analysis for rural settlement: South West, ditto
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)

Net within-UK migration rate, age groups, for Rural Towns (RT) and Other (VS), by Remote, South West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% residents in age group</th>
<th>RT Not remote</th>
<th>RT Remote</th>
<th>VS Not remote</th>
<th>VS Remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-59</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More detailed analysis for rural settlement: England, RT and VS by remote, age groups
(Source: calculated from 2001 Census)
Main findings – a summary

- London is UK’s main migration driver, but largest losses are of 30-44s and 0-15s
- Main ageing factor differentiating GORs is ageing in place of differing volumes of in-migrants aged 30-44, not of older in-migrants
- Counterurbanization occurs for all age groups except 16-24 (25-29 & 75+ for ‘rural’)
- ‘Rural’ wards gain most 30-44s, fewer 45-59, etc
- Rural Towns gain more older in-migrants than Villages & Scattered, fewer 30-44s
- ‘Remoteness’ is a plus for 45+. But NB: 75+ move from Remote V/S to Remote Towns
Thinking about the future

- A long-term look into geographical patterns of future ageing needs to give most attention to the migration of the 30-44s, then 45-59s – what drivers for these? How might these change?
- The geography of ‘retirement areas’ (places that most attract 60-74 year olds) have changed little – still seaside towns and rural-coastal dominating. But are newcomers merely replacing predecessors?
- Other considerations affecting ‘retiree migration’: 1) Working longer/smaller pensions; 2) Lower house-price gradient between metro and non-metro/rural; 3) 2020s bulge of 60-70s put pressure on usual retirement areas; 4) effects of household changes.
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