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Migration and British Cities

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Migration and British Cities

• Data sources on within-UK migration
• Residential mobility
• North-south dimension
• Urban-rural dimension
• Pivotal role of the largest cities
• Migration and social mobility
• Selectivity in ‘urban exodus’
• Summary of main points
Data sources on within-UK migration

- Population Census, but important differences between 2001 and 1991 (in coverage, definitions, ‘no usual address one year ago’)
- NHS Central Register since 1975 (also some changes over time in methodology, areas)
- This paper draws mainly on two studies:
  1) ONS’s *Focus on People and Migration*, chapter 6 (published yesterday)
  2) JRF project *Migration and the Socio-economic Complexion of Communities* (in progress)
Residential mobility

• 9 -11 % a year says Census - less than USA & Australia, more than some others
• 2 in 3 move under 10km, vs. 1 in 15 200km+: Mainly housing-related, vs. mainly job-related
• Migration rates vary through economic cycles: no sign of long-term rise in migration rates
• Rates highest for young adults, lone parents, non-elderly loners, private-renters, students, non-manual workers esp professionals
Rates of migration between NHSCR areas, 1975-2004, rolling annual averages by quarter, per 1000 people

Source: ONS from NHSCR
% residents known to have changed address within the UK, 2000/2001, by gender and single year of age

Source: special tabulation from ONS
## Migration rate (%) for all residents, 2000-2001 by personal characteristic (at time of census)

Source: calculated from 2001 Census Standard Table T033

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected personal characteristics</th>
<th>England &amp; Wales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>all persons</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-pensionable not in a family</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dependent child in lone parent family</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>living in communal establishment</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unemployed</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economically inactive student</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other inactive (not retired, sick, looking after home)</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Migration rate (%) for all residents, 2000-2001 by household characteristic (at time of census)

Source: calculated from 2001 Census Standard Table T034

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected household characteristics</th>
<th>England &amp; Wales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>all households</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>privately renting</td>
<td>41.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>renting from council</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shared ownership</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lone parent with dependent child</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one person non-pensioner</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other HH (not one person, couple, lone parent)</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all student HH</td>
<td>88.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GB districts with highest and lowest proportion of migrant residents, 2001 (GB=12.1%)
Source: calculated from 2001 Census Standard Table T033

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>East Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>Havering</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>City of London</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>East Renfrewshire</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>Knowsley</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wandsworth</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>Rochford</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>North East Derbyshire</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hammersmith and Fulham</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>Dudley</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Richmondshire</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>South Staffordshire</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kensington and Chelsea</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Castle Point</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>Ellesmere Port and Neston</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North-South dimension

- North-to-south net migration averaging 30k over last 3 decades
- But cyclic fluctuations due to economic factors and house-price ‘ripple’
- And net shift has been lower since the end of the 1980s
- Combined result is net NORTHWARD shift since 2000
- And this migration has been only a small part of South’s population growth by 1990s
North-south migration, 1971-2003
Source: ONS from NHSCR

Net gain to South

Net gain to North

Thousands

Components of population change, 1991-2001, North vs South

Population change, 1991-2001, for North and South, by component of change

- Total change
- Natural change
- Internal migration
- International migration

NORTH

SOUTH

Thousands
Urban-rural dimension

• Averaging over 90k net over last two decades from England’s 7 ‘metros’, esp from London
• Very persistent over time, with no years of net inflow to ‘Metro England’ from the rest of UK
• Clear counterurbanization relationship, with greatest net gains by most rural districts
• Penetrates deep into less urban areas in a form of ‘cascade’
Net out-migration from Greater London and 6 Metro Counties to Rest of UK, 1981-2003

Source: ONS from NHSCR
‘Counterurbanization cascade’
Pivotal role of the largest cities

• London is main dynamo of whole UK’s regional migration
• Its importance in this has increased since the 1990s, with migration spillover into the North
• Within the South, the net effects of migration are felt most at the two ends of the ‘cascade’
• Mirror image of larger cities gaining 16-24 year olds and rural settlements gaining rest
• Ditto for North of England, though at a lower pace
Net within-UK migration balance, all ages, 2000-2001, Government Office Regions and England
Source: 2001 Census
Net within-UK migration balance, age groups, 2000-01, North of England by size of urban area
Life-course migration and social mobility

- Circular pattern of migration through the life course, with young adults moving to cities and families and older people moving away
- Also, migration is normally seen as being linked to upward social mobility
- Faster career track for people migrating into the South East’s ‘escalator region’ focused on London (Fielding, 1989)
- People ‘stepping off escalator’ later in career – ‘out’ from city and ‘down’ into self-empl
Selectivity in ‘urban exodus’

- Down-hierarchy net flows prevail for all ages except 16-19 and 20-24
- Also, cities are more attractive for students, Chinese and ‘Other’
- Net exodus involves all broad social groups but especially managerial and professional
- But London is distinctive in its strong attraction and retention of higher managerial and professional workers
Net within-UK migration of full-time students, 2000-2001, as % of all residents aged 16-74
Net inflow of non-whites from the rest of the UK 2000-2001 as % of all residents

% all residents

-0.73 - 0.10
-0.39 - 0.00
-0.01 - 0.05
0.06 - 0.09
0.10 - 0.79
Higher managerial and professional in-migrants as % of classified 16-74 in-migrants from rest of the UK

% classified in-migrants

- 4.05 - 11.99
- 12.00 - 14.89
- 15.00 - 17.89
- 18.00 - 20.89
- 21.00 - 27.45
In/out ratio for MGRPs, by broad NS-SeC, for the 27 Cities together

deviation from unity

-0.4 -0.2 0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8

Higher M&P
Lower M&P
Intermediate
Lower occs
FT Student
Other
All MGRPs
In/out ratio for classified MGRPs, by broad NS-SeC type, for the 27 Cities grouped.
Within-UK migration, 2000-2001, for 27 JRF project cities: (1 -)
ratio of inflow to outflow for HMP

Unity minus In/Out Ratio ('-' signifies that inflow is the greater)
Summary of main points

• Within-UK migration rates and patterns vary over time, broadly with economic cycles
• The North-to-South drift reversed after 2000 after a reduction in the its average pace
• The urban exodus continues strongly, with a shift of people to towns and rural areas
• Both dimensions have a circular life-course pattern, with London playing a pivotal role
• The urban exodus is selective, but London is one of few exceptions to rule of higher losses of the most skilled
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