Changing Processes and Patterns of Migration in the UK

Tony Champion

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- The title given me by CSDR possibly reflects the 2 volumes of ‘Migration Processes and Patterns’ (Belhaven 1992) produced by the IBG Working Party on Migration in Britain.
- But I won’t attempt a recap of all that material nor a resume of its ‘revisiting’ in Smith, Finney, Halfacree & Walford (eds), to be launched at RGS-IBG and BSPS conferences in Sept.
- Instead, CSDR’s instruction to external speakers is ‘to reflect on their own work as well as wider issues about their theme’.
- The presentation covers both international and internal migration and adopts a 3-stage approach: (1) national picture; (2) sub-national variations; (3) trends since 2001.
- If you detect that I am obsessed by the 2008-09 recession and its aftermath, then you are right!
The national picture

• Much higher gross **immigration** to the UK after 1997, with no apparent impact of the 2008/09 recession
• 2008/09 drop in **net inflow** due to short-term peak in gross outflow from the UK; then back up to 2005 level by 2014
• Net by citizenship: Loss of British; Rise in non-EU after 1997 and EU in 2004; 2008-09 recession effect on EU & British
• **Internal migration rate** varies with economic cycles, but no long-term decline overall for England & Wales 1971-2011
• Rates by age: inter-regionally the 16-24s are the highest and most volatile; 65+ reducing long-term; 0-15 also at low now
• **Short-distance address changing** (<10km) seems to be in long-term decline, at least on 10-year basis from ONS-LS
Much higher immigration after 1997, with no apparent impact of recession

Total Long-term Immigration to the UK, 1970-2014

Source: redrawn from ONS data
2008/09 drop in net inflow due to short-term peak in gross outflow from the UK; net inflow back up to 2005 level by 2014

Source: ONS, rolling years
By citizenship: net loss of British always; Rises in non-EU after 1997 and EU 2004; 2008-09 recession effect on EU & British

Source: ONS, rolling years
Internal migration rate varies with economic cycles, but no long-term decline evident for England & Wales 1971/72 - 2010/11 (cf USA)

Source: calculated from NHSCR data from ONS, using consistent geography
Rates vary by age: inter-regionally the 16-24s are the highest and most volatile, 65+ falling long-term, 0-15 now at a low

Migration rate between GORs and Wales for years ending in June:
Broad age groups (using rev MYE for 2002-11)

Source: as previous slide
Short-distance address changing (<10km) seems to be in long-term decline, at least on 10-year basis from ONS-LS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>&lt;10km</th>
<th>10-&lt;50km</th>
<th>50-&lt;200km</th>
<th>200km+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971-1981</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1991</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-2001</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2011</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: calculated from ONS Longitudinal Study. Crown copyright. Work with Ian Shuttleworth
Sub-national variations

Using State of the English Cities Report (SOECR) typology of 5 ‘urban area’ sizes x 2 regions (South & East, North & West), 2001-2012 average annual rates (%):

• Net international migration gain for all 10 SOECR types, but especially London which reinforces Urban and South

• Net internal migration displays ‘urban-rural’ shift, especially in the South; in North, the Mets fare better than ‘expected’ (or Large Cities worse)

• Total migration pattern dominated by internal migration, so continuing ‘counter-urbanization’ (though largely offset by the ‘urbanization’ of natural change)

• Long-term volume of North/South migration has reduced since 1970s – still a cyclical pattern, but where next?
Net international migration gain for all 10 SOECHR types, notably for London, which favours Urban and South

International migration, 2001-2012, for SOECHR typology of districts, % annualised

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLAND</th>
<th>SOUTH &amp; EAST</th>
<th>NORTH &amp; WEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>London</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large cities</td>
<td>Small cities</td>
<td>Large towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small towns &amp; rural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mets</td>
<td>Large cities</td>
<td>Small cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large towns</td>
<td>Small towns &amp; rural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: calculated from ONS data
Internal migration displays ‘urban-rural shift’, especially in the South; in North, the Mets fare better than ‘expected’

Within-UK migration, 2001-2012, for SOEGR typology of districts, % annualised

Source: calculated from ONS data
Total migration shows greater impact of internal migration within South & North, but each type always lower for North

Source: calculated from ONS data
Long-term volume of North/South migration has reduced since 1970s – still a cyclical pattern, but where next?

Net migration from North to South of UK, 1971-2013
(South = East Midlands, East of England, London, South East & South West)

Source: calculated from ONS data
Trends since 2001

How were patterns affected by the onset of recession?

- Post-2007, a major reshaping in total migration impact towards London and away from towns & rural in South as well as North

- In contrast to a largely unchanged picture for net international migration, a major change for internal migration: after 2007, fall in volume of net flows out of cities, especially London, reducing ‘supply’ to towns & rural in both South & North

- Net out-migration from London fell from 2004 to 2009, while the fall in rural net in-migration continued in North & South

- Same picture evident for DEFRA’s urban/rural typology and also on GOR basis: London’s falling net out-migration reduces supply to other regions notably East Midlands and South West
Total migration unchanged for England after 2007, but a major reshaping towards London and away from towns & rural in South as well as North

Net migration, 2001-2007 and 2007-2012, for SOECR typology of districts, % annualised

Source: calculated from ONS data
Net international migration 2001-07 and 2007-12: A largely unchanged picture, unlike for…

Net international migration, 2001-2007 and 2007-2012, for SOECR typology of districts, % annualised

Source: calculated from ONS data
... internal migration: after 2007, falls in net flows from cities, especially London, reducing ‘supply’ to towns & rural in both South & North

Net within-UK migration, 2001-2007 and 2007-2012, for SOECR typology of districts, % annualised

Source: calculated from ONS data
Net out-migration from London to Rest of UK shrank from 2004 to 2009, while the fall in rural in-migration continued.

Rate of net within-UK migration, 2001-2012, for SOECR typology of districts

Source: calculated from ONS data
Ditto in terms of DEFRA’s urban/rural typology of England’s districts.
London’s falling out-migration reduces net supply of people to other regions, notably East Midlands & South West

Net migration (PR data for E&W): all ages

Source: calculated from ONS data
Looking ahead: two big questions

• How much international migration: anything close to the central 2012-based projection?
• What level of net out-migration from London to the rest of the UK: stay at 2007-12 average as in latest projections?
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