Lecture 11a: Migration measurement

Ernesto F. L. Amaral

April 21, 2025
Demographic Methods (SOCI 633/320)

www.ernestoamaral.com



Outline

- Migration data across countries
 - Bell and colleagues 2002, 2009, 2013, 2015
- Age profile of internal migration
 - Amaral 2008
 - Bernard, Bell, Charles-Edwards 2014
- Proximate determinants of migration age profiles
 - Bernard, Bell, Charles-Edwards 2014
- Consistent measures of migration
 - Raymer 2017



Migration terms

- Internal migration: permanent changes in residence that occur within a country
- International migration: permanent changes in residence that occur between countries

Areas	Internal migration (within countries)	International migration (between countries)		
Receiving areas (destination)	In-migration	Immigration		
Sending areas (origin)	Out-migration	Emigration		

Migration data across countries

Table 1. Countries collecting data on internal migration by continent, 2000 and 2010 round of censuses and other sources

Region	2000 Round of Censuses	2010 Round of Censuses	Register	Survey ¹	Multiple data sources	Total countries collecting internal migration data	Total No. of countries
Africa	32	27	0	38	31	50	54
Asia	34	24	15	23	26	40	46
Europe	32	23	32	34	36	42	44
Latin America and the Caribbean	28	19	0	12	12	31	32
North America	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
Oceania	13	11	1	2	3	13	14
Total	142	106	50	111	110	179	193



Table 2. Internal migration data collected in the 2000 round of censuses (1995-2004)

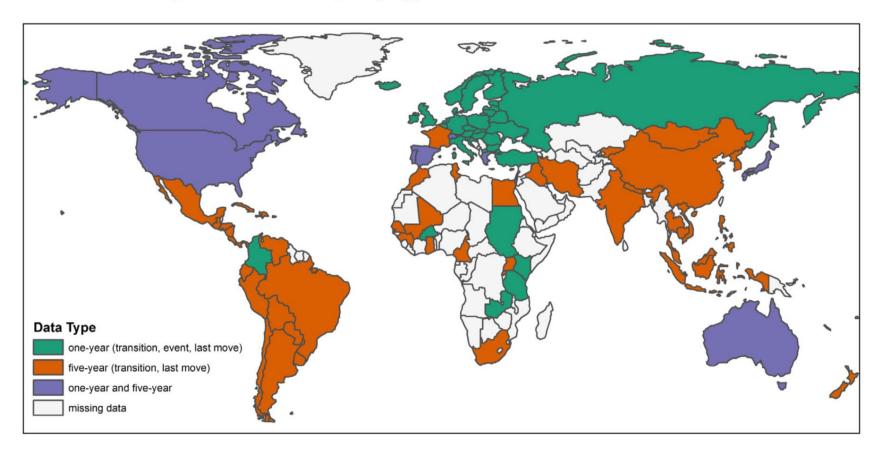
	Type of Data						Total No. of	
			Observation I	_	countries			
Region	One year	Five years	Other fixed interval	Lifetime	Latest move	Duration of residence	collecting data	
Africa	9	8	8	29	13	17	32	
Asia	1	13	8	26	18	24	34	
Europe	14	4	12	26	10	13	32	
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	16	2	28	12	13	28	
North America	1	3	0	3	0	0	3	
Oceania	2	8	2	10	2	5	13	
TOTAL	29	52	32	122	55	71	142	

Table 3. Internal migration data collected in the 2010 round of censuses (2005-2014)

			Туре	of Data			Total No.	
		Ob	_	of countries				
Region	One year	Five year	Other fixed interval	Lifetime	Latest move	Duration of residence	collecting data	
Africa	8	7	5	26	10	9	27	
Asia	5	12	3	16	12	9	24	
Europe	12	3	2	16	10	14	23	
Latin America and the Caribbean	1	13	3	19	8	10	19	
North America	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	
Oceania	4	10	1	9	0	9	11	
TOTAL	31	47	14	88	40	53	106	



FIGURE 2 League table coverage by type of data





Measures of internal migration

Aggregate Crude Migration Intensity

 It expresses the total number of internal migrants (M) in a given time period as a percentage of the population at risk (P)

ACMI = 100 M/P

Age at peak migration intensity

It is determined from the profile of age-specific migration intensities

Crude Migration Intensity, based on Courgeau's Index k

It compares migration among countries with different territorial divisions

$$CMI = k ln(n)$$

- n: number of regions in the zonal system
- k: slope of a regression line for various n and ACMI, which reflects the overall intensity of migration at various spatial scales

Migration Effectiveness Index (MEI)

- MEI measures the degree of (a)symmetry or (dis)equilibrium in the network of interregional migration flows
- It informs the overall efficiency of migration as a mechanism for population redistribution
- It can assume values between 0 and 100
- High values: migration is an efficient mechanism of population redistribution, generating a large net effect for the given volume of movement
- Low values: migration flows are more closely balanced, leading to comparatively little redistribution

$$MEI = 100 \sum_{i} |D_{i} - O_{i}| / \sum_{i} (D_{i} + O_{i})$$

- D_i: total inflows to zone i
- O_i: total outflows from zone i



Aggregate Net Migration Rate (ANMR)

- ANMR indicates more directly the overall impact of net migration in changing the population distribution of the country
- It summarizes the extent of population redistribution arising from the net migration balances
- It represents a logical extension of net migration rate commonly used for specific regions

ANMR =
$$100 \times \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} |D_i - O_i| / \sum_{i} P_i$$

P_i: Population at risk (PAR) in region i



No.	Indicator Name	Shorthand	Description
Mea	asures of migration intensity		
1	Crude Migration Intensity	CMI	Total moves over population at risk
2	Standardized Migration Intensity	SMI	Age-standardised intensity
3	Gross Migraproduction Rate	GMR	Sum of age-specific migration intensities
4	Migration Expectancy	ME	Total moves over a hypothetical lifetime
5	Peak Migration Intensity	PMI	Peak intensity on the age schedule
6	Age at Peak Intensity	API	Age at which the peak occurs
Mea	asures of migration distance		
7	Median Distance	MD	Distance moved at the 50th percentile
8	Distance Decay Parameter	В	Exponent from a spatial interaction model
9	Courgeau's Index	K	Regression slope of CMIs at various scales
Mea	asures of migration connectivity		
10	Index of Migration Connectivity	I_{MC}	Proportion of non-zero flows in a matrix
11	Index of Migration Inequality	I_{MI}	Departure from a hypothetical flow matrix
12	Migration Weighted Gini	MWG	System-wide index of spatial concentration
13	Coefficient of Variation	ACV	SD divided by the mean of a flow matrix
Mea	asures of migration impact		
14	Migration Effectiveness Index	MEI	Asymmetry of inter-zonal migration flows
15	Aggregate Net Migration Rate	ANMR	Extent of redistribution through migration



FIGURE 3 Five-year ACMIs by country, ranked

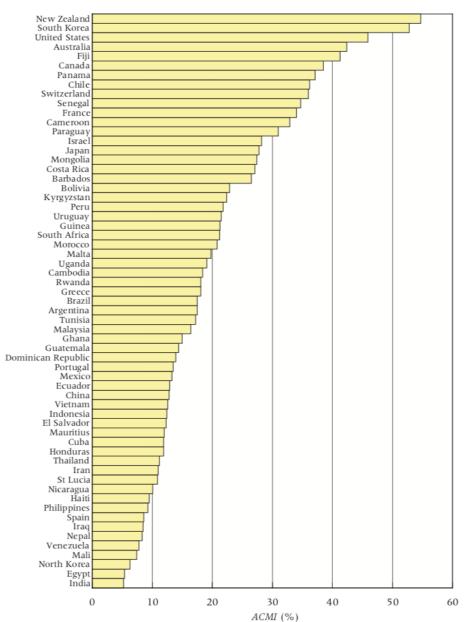




FIGURE 4 One-year ACMIs by country, ranked

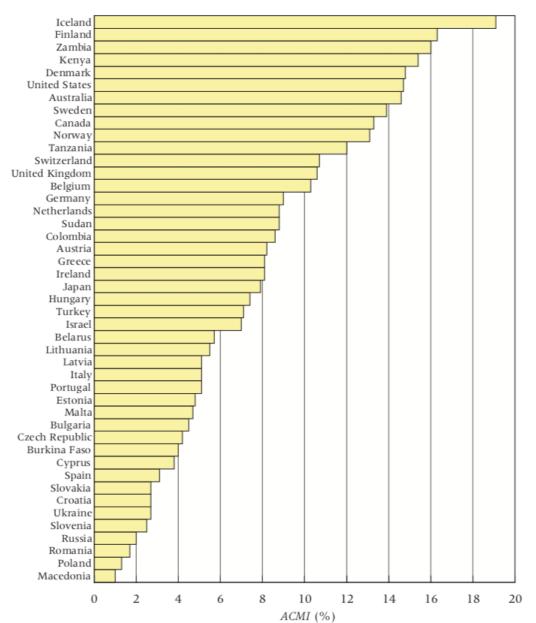
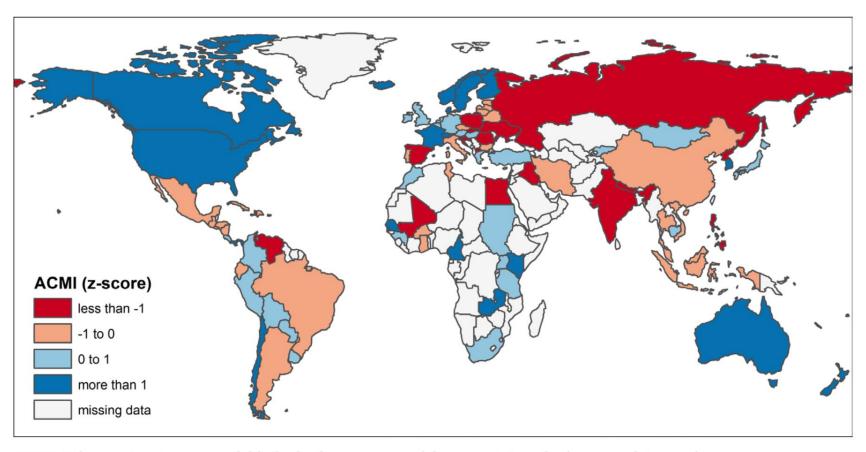




FIGURE 5 Standardized *ACMIs*, one year and five years (z-scores)



NOTE: Where estimates are available for both one-year and five-year intervals, five-year data are shown.



TABLE 1 Crude and standardized migration intensities, selected countries

			Standard population (2000)							
			Má	alaysia	Já	apan		eighted erage		
Country and interval	Median age <i>ACMI</i>		Percent differ- SMI ence		Percent differ- SMI ence		SMI	Percent differ- ence		
Five-year interval										
Malaysia	23.8	17.1	18.9	10.5	15.6	-8.8	16.4	-4.1		
Japan	41.3	27.6	34.3	24.3	27.7	0.4	29.4	6.5		
France	37.6	34.0	41.8	22.9	34.0	0.0	35.9	5.6		
Switzerland	38.6	36.1	41.1	13.9	35.5	-1.7	37.0	2.5		
Canada	36.8	38.5	45.1	17.1	38.5	0.0	40.1	4.2		
Australia	35.4	42.4	47.5	12.0	40.8	-3.8	42.4	0.0		
United States	35.3	44.3	49.5	11.7	42.1	-5.0	43.9	-0.9		
New Zealand	34.3	54.7	60.6	10.8	53.7	-1.8	55.0	0.5		
Range		37.6	41.7	_	38.1	_	38.6	_		
One-year interval										
Italy	40.2	5.1	5.8	13.7	5.0	-2.0	5.2	2.0		
Austria	38.2	8.1	10.1	24.7	7.9	-2.5	8.4	3.7		
Canada	36.8	13.3	15.5	16.5	12.9	-3.0	13.4	0.8		
United States (CPS 2000)	35.3	15.5	18.2	17.6	14.8	-4.6	15.5	-0.2		
Denmark	38.4	16.0	20.6	29.1	16.6	4.0	17.3	8.4		
Iceland	32.8	19.1	21.9	14.7	17.7	−7.3	18.6	-2.6		
Australia	35.4	17.6	19.9	13.1	16.7	-5.1	17.4	-1.1		
Range		14.0	16.1	_	12.7	_	13.4			

NOTE: Direct standardization, see text.



TABLE 2 Correlation coefficients, one-year and five-year *ACMI*s with selected indicators

	One-y	ear interval	Five-y	ear interval
Variable	n	r	n	r
Geographic				
Geographic area (sq. root)	44	0.46**	61	0.14
Population density	44	-0.10	60	-0.10
Urbanization	40	0.65**	61	0.39**
Economic				
Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita (2005 PPP\$) Gini coefficient	40	0.69**	57	0.61**
(income inequality 2000, 2005)	28	0.07	34	0.01
Foreign direct investment/GDP (2000)	43	0.03	56	0.02
Female labor force participation (2000)	43	0.53**	61	0.20
Labor force participation (2000)	42	0.40*	61	0.24
Social				
Human Development Index (2000)	40	0.62**	59	0.48**
Mobile phone subscribers (2000)	40	0.66**	61	0.54**
Literacy (2000)	25	-0.76**	49	0.06
Percent males 20–24 living at home	11	-0.81**	4	-0.97*
Demographic				
Growth rate (2000–2005)	45	0.40**	60	-0.25
Life expectancy at birth (2000–2005)	45	-0.01	61	0.25
Total fertility rate (TFR) (2000–2005)	40	0.45**	59	-0.14
Median age	40	0.05	61	0.38**
Net international migration rate (2000–2005)	40	0.35*	56	0.48**
Remittances as percent of GDP (2000)	41	-0.27	54	-0.34*

^{*}Significant at p < 0.05; **p < 0.01.



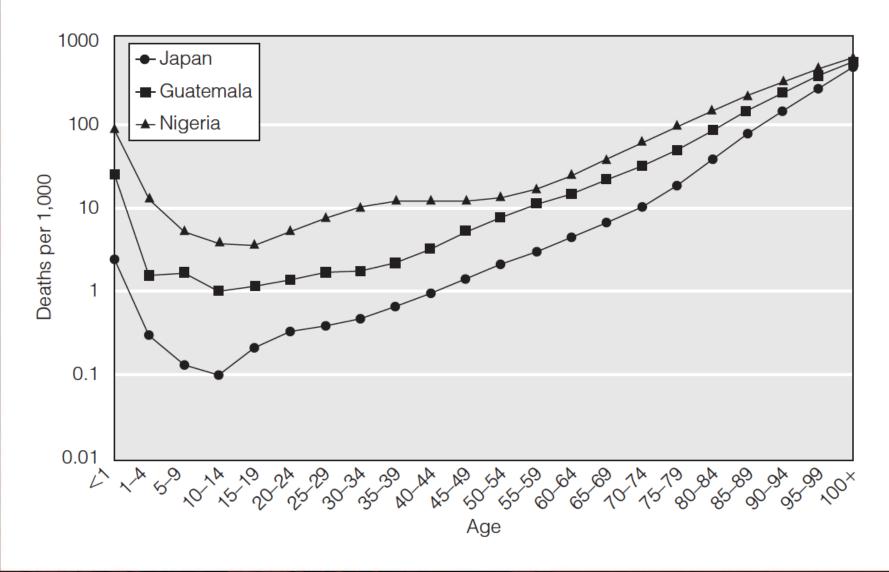


Age profile of internal migration

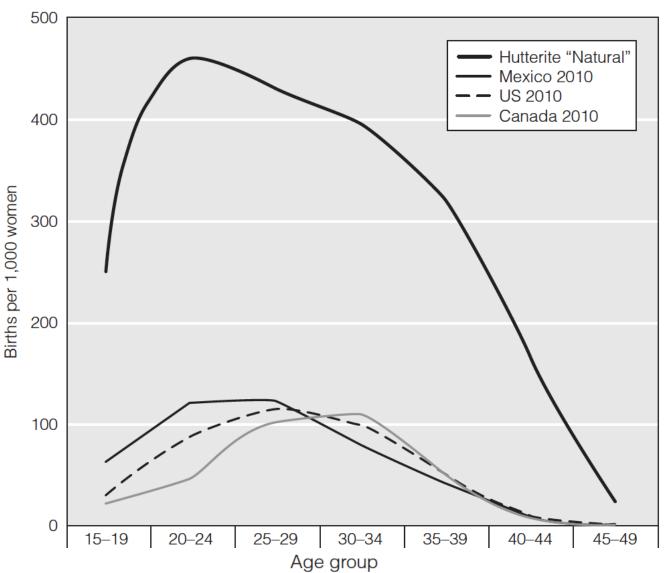
- Migration is an age-selective process, with young adults being the most mobile group
 - The propensity to migrate typically peaks at young adult ages
 - Steadily declines with increasing age
 - Rising again among young children and sometimes around the age of retirement
- Recent cross-national studies have revealed systematic variations in the age profile of migration, particularly at young adult ages
 - We are usually more familiar with age profile of mortality and fertility...



Age-specific mortality rates, 2011



Age-specific fertility rates





Age-specific migration rates, United States, 2011–2012

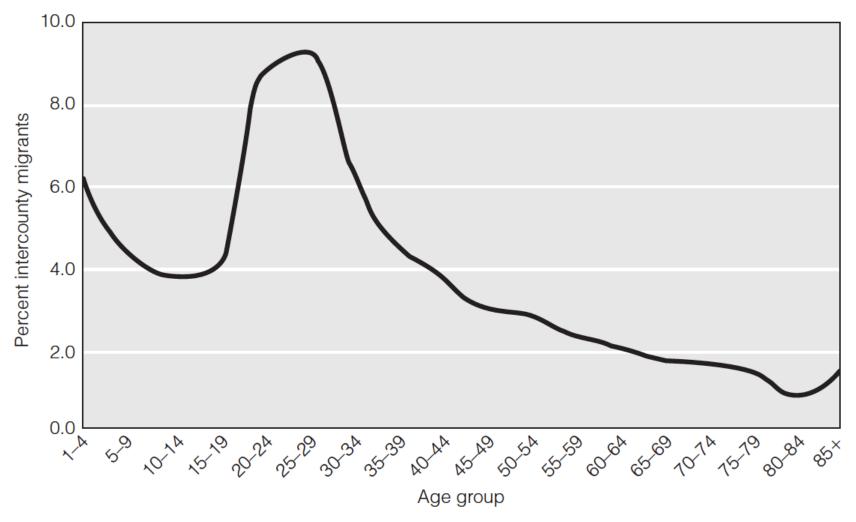


FIGURE 1 Typical age profile of migration and key life-course transitions

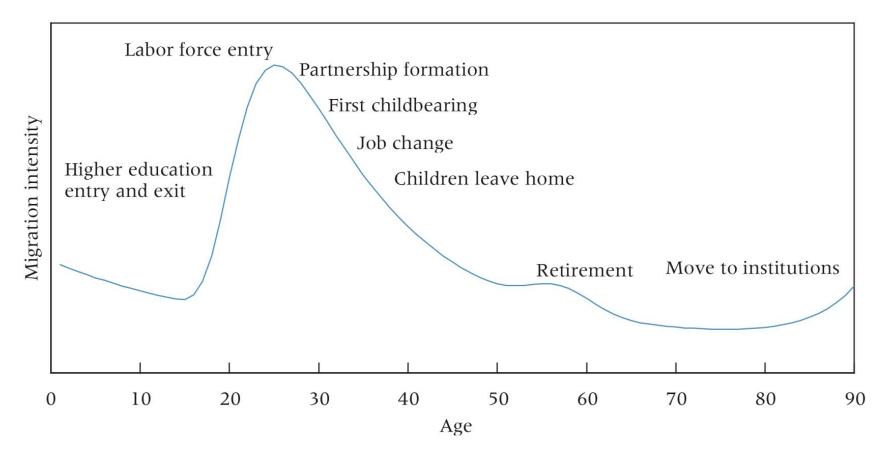
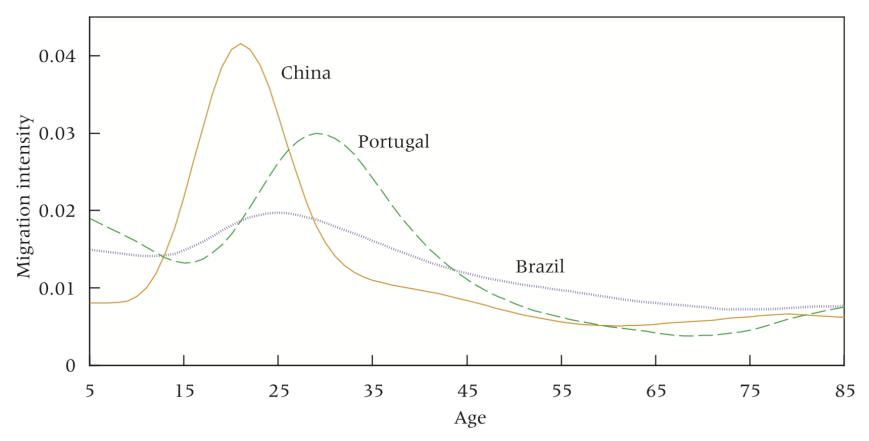




FIGURE 2 Cross-national variations in migration age profiles



SOURCE: Authors' calculations based on five-year-interval migration data reported by single-year age groups. Migration data were normalized to sum to unity and smoothed using kernel regression (Bernard and Bell 2012).



Last-move, duration vs. Fixed prior date

- Last-move data (previous residence) & duration of residence
 - Best approach to measure migration (Xu-Doeve 2006)
 - The exact date of the move is reported by the duration of residence, which provides the full reconstruction of migration processes as they took place in real time
- Place of residence at a fixed date in the past
 - Interval transition measure: usually one or five years in the past
 - Highlighted as the one suited to estimate internal migration (UNECE 2005)



Last-move & duration of residence

- Estimation of consistent instantaneous migration rates, along cohort lines, as a function of continuous time and age
- 2. Estimation of probabilities to make several moves within specified times intervals (multiple moves, trajectories)
- 3. Estimation of migrant stocks (absolute numbers)
- 4. Calculation of period rates
- **5.** Adjustment of migration data for incompleteness of enumeration
- **6.** Computation of transitions in any arbitrarily specified discrete interval of time and age



Residence at some fixed prior date

- 1. Impossibility to estimate cohort instantaneous migration rates as a function of continuous time/age (analysis in discrete time)
- 2. No proper data to estimate multiple moves, trajectories
- **3.** Estimation of migrant stocks and flows is not properly identified
- **4.** Migration rates obtained are not consistent with the standard definition of occurrence/exposure rates (denominator is not the number of person-years exposed to the risk of migration)
- **5.** No correction for undercount migrant enumeration can be done
- 6. Only estimation of migration transitions in discrete time and age between fixed date in the past and date of enumeration

Age-specific out-migration rate

(last-move & duration of residence)

ASOMR_{x,ij} from region i to region j for age group x

$$ASOMR_{ij}^{x} = \frac{\sum_{t=0}^{4} K_{t,ij}^{x}}{0.5K_{0,,i}^{x} + 1.5K_{1,,i}^{x} + 2.5K_{2,,i}^{x} + 3.5K_{3,,i}^{x} + 4.5K_{4,,i}^{x} + 4.5K_{0,i,}^{x} + 3.5K_{1,i,}^{x} + 2.5K_{2,i,}^{x} + 1.5K_{3,i,}^{x} + 0.5K_{4,i,}^{x} + 5K_{nm,i}^{x}}$$

- t. duration of residence in current place of residence (years)
- $K_{xt,ij}$: migrants from *i* to *j* for age group x
- $K_{xt,i}$: migrants from all regions different than i to region i for age group x
- $K_{xt,i}$: migrants from region *i* to all regions different than *i* for age group x
- $K_{xt,nm}$: non-migrants for age group x
- Sum of weights of immigrants ($K_{xt,.i}$ for specific destination) and emigrants ($K_{xt,i}$ for specific origin) equals 5 years (length of period),



Age-specific out-migration rate

(place of residence at some fixed prior date)

ASOMR_{x,ij} from region i to region j for age group x

$$ASOMR_{ij}^{x} = \frac{\sum K_{ij}^{x}}{t * \sum \left[\frac{\left(K_{i.}^{x} + K_{ii}^{x}\right) + \left(K_{i}^{x}\right)}{2}\right]}$$

- t. years between date of reference and fixed prior date
- $K_{x,ij}$: migrants who lived in region i at the beginning of period and moved to region j at the end of period for age group x
- $K_{x,i}$: migrants who lived in region *i* at the beginning of the period and live in another region at the end of period for age group x
- $K_{x,ii}$: population who lived in region *i* at the beginning, as well as at the end of period for age group x
- $K_{x,i}$: population who lived in region *i* at the end of period for age group *x*

Some considerations

(place of residence at some fixed prior date)

- Denominator is an approximation for period person-years lived, based on estimation of population at the middle of the period
 - Population at the beginning of period for age group x $K_{x,i} + K_{x,ii}$
 - Population at the end of period for age group x $K_{x,i}$
 - Population at the middle of period for age group x $[(K_{x,i.} + K_{x,ii}) + (K_{x,i})] / 2$
 - Length of the period
- Assumption
 - Rate of migration is the same between those who died and those who survived during the period

Total out-migration rate

 Total non-out-migration rate (TNOMR_{ij}) for each time and combination of areas of origin and destination

$$TNOMR_{ij} = exp(-\Sigma ASOMR_{x,ij})$$

 It is analogous to the relationship between the survivor function and the force of mortality

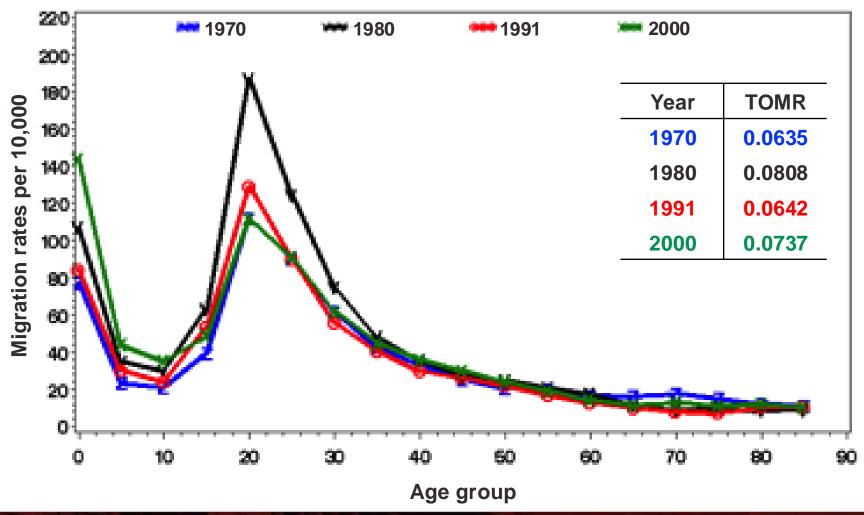
Total out-migration rate (TOMR_{ij})

$$TOMR_{ij} = 1 - TNOMR_{ij}$$



ASOMR, Northeast to Southeast, Males, Brazil

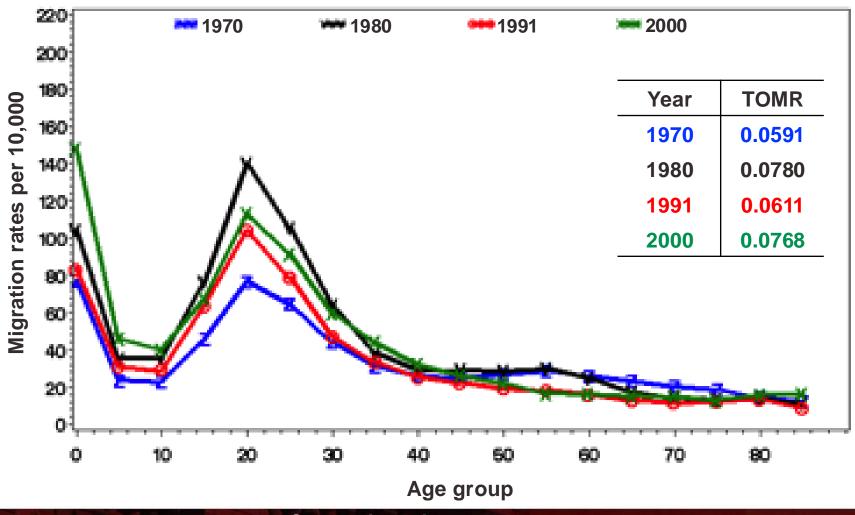
(last-move & duration of residence)



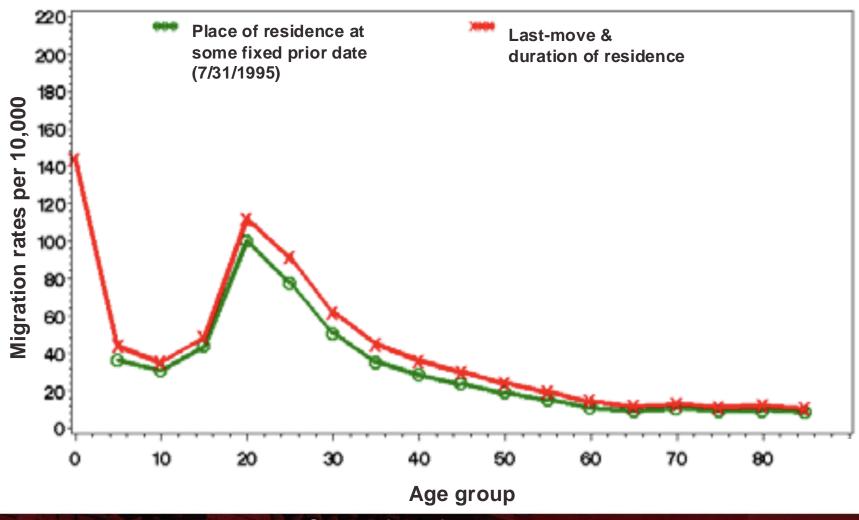
Source: Amaral 2008, pp.13, 22.

ASOMR, Northeast to Southeast, Females, Brazil

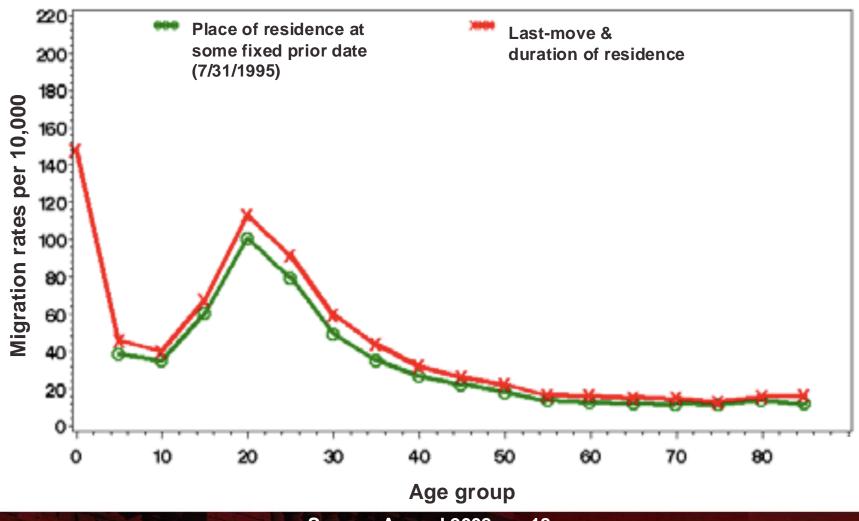
(last-move & duration of residence)



ASOMR, Northeast to Southeast, Males, Brazil, 2000



ASOMR, Northeast to Southeast, Females, Brazil, 2000



Age-specific in-migration rate

(place of residence at some fixed prior date)

- ASIMR_{x,ij} from region i to region j for age group x
 - Denominator is adjusted to estimate the population at the middle of the period for the region of destination

$$ASIMR_{ij}^{x} = \frac{\sum K_{ij}^{x}}{t * \sum \left[\frac{\left(K_{j.}^{x} + K_{jj}^{x}\right) + \left(K_{j}^{x}\right)}{2}\right]}$$

- This rate is misleading
 - The denominator refers to people living in area of destination, which is not the group of people at risk of moving in
 - These people are precisely the ones who are not at risk of moving in, because they are already living in the area of destination



Proximate determinants

FIGURE 3 Proximate determinants of migration age profiles

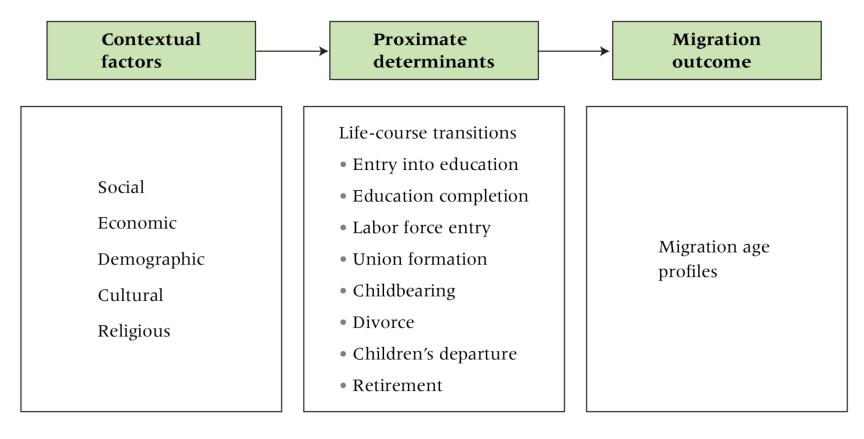
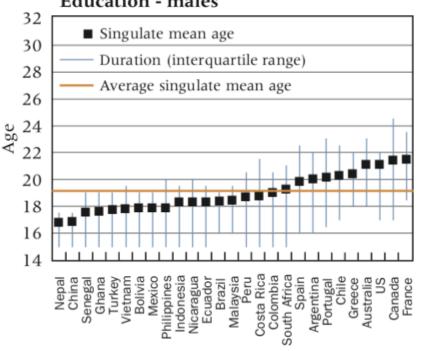


TABLE 1 Life-course transition and migration age profile metrics

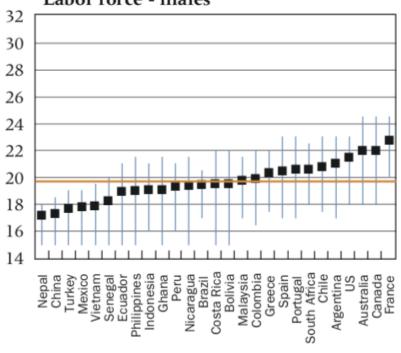
Metric	Definition	Measure	Interpretation	References				
Life-course transitions								
Prevalence	Proportion of a population that experiences a transition	Proportion of a population that has experienced a transition by age 35	Transition may be almost universal or less common	Modell, Furstenberg, and Hershberg (1976)				
Timing	Typical ages at which a transition occurs	Singulate mean age computed between ages 15 and 35	Transition may occur early or late in life	Hajnal (1953)				
Spread	Period of time required for a fixed proportion of a population to undergo a transition	Duration (interquartile range)	Transition may be brief or protracted	Carter and Glick (1970); Modell, Furstenberg, and Hershberg (1976)				
Migration								
Age at peak migration	Age at which most moves occur	Age at which migration intensity peaks	Migration can occur early or late in life	Bernard, Bell, and Charles- Edwards (2014)				
Intensity at peak migration	Degree of concentration of migration over a narrow age range	Intensity at which migration peaks	Migration can be concentrated or dispersed	Bernard, Bell, and Charles- Edwards (2014)				

Timing and spread of life-course transitions

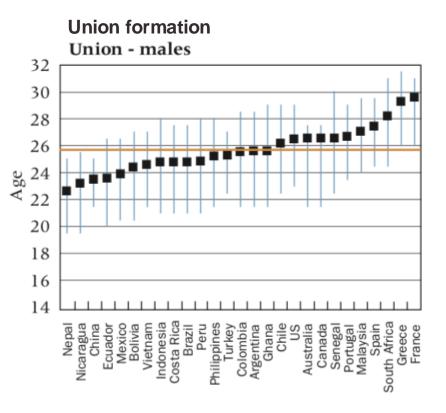
Education completion Education - males

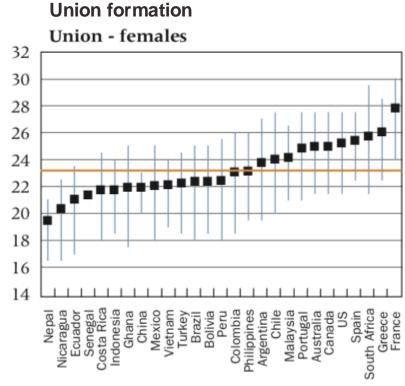


Labor force entry Labor force - males

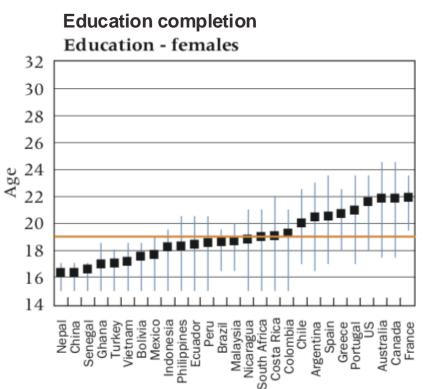


Timing and spread of life-course transitions





Timing and spread of life-course transitions



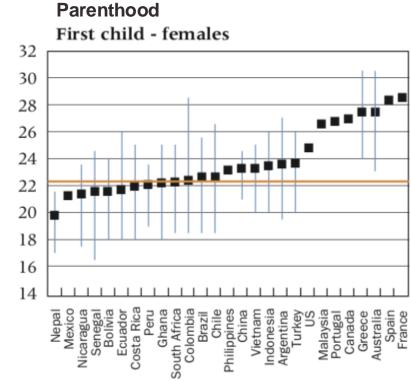


TABLE 2A Pearson correlation coefficients between life-course timing and age at migration peak by transition and sex

Transition	Male	Female	
Education completion	0.52*	0.67*	
Labor force entry	0.47**	_	
Union formation	0.45**	0.66*	
Parenthood	_	0.61*	

^{*}Significant at p \leq 0.01; ** p \leq 0.05.

TABLE 2B Pearson correlation coefficients between life-course spread and intensity at migration peak by transition and sex

Transition	Male	Female
Education completion	0.01	0.34
Labor force entry	0.31	
Union formation	0.72*	0.76*
Parenthood		0.75*

^{*}Significant at p \leq 0.01; ** p \leq 0.05.

TABLE 3 Factor loading against timing and spread of life-course transitions

	Males		Females	
	Factor 1: Transition timing index	Factor 2: Transition spread index	Factor 1: Transition timing index	Factor 2: Transition spread index
Prevalence				
Higher education	0.82	0.14	0.86	0.09
Labor force	-0.54	-0.54	_	_
Union formation	-0.88	-0.15	-0.70	-0.46
Timing				
Education completion	0.94	0.12	0.94	0.15
Labor force entry	0.90	0.28	_	_
Union formation	0.85	-0.16	0.92	-0.01
Parenthood	_	_	0.85	-0.36
Spread				
Education completion	0.63	0.56	0.58	0.55
Labor force entry	0.18	0.86	_	_
Union formation	-0.12	0.76	-0.10	0.91
Share of total variance	0.51	0.23	0.58	0.22

NOTES: Factor loadings of 0.50 and greater and factor loadings of –0.50 and lower are indicated in boldface. An orthogonal rotation was used to ensure that the resulting factors are not correlated (Basilevsky 2008). Two factors were retained based on the Kaiser criterion (eigenvalues greater than one). Prevalence and spread of the transition to parenthood were excluded for females since they are available for only 19 of the 27 countries.

FIGURE 5A Age at migration peak versus transition timing index, males

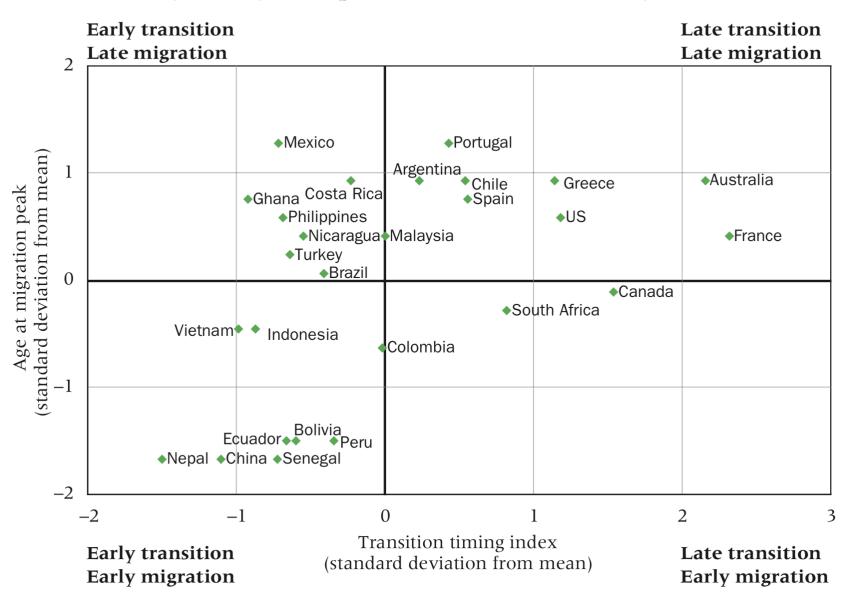


FIGURE 5B Age at migration peak versus transition timing index, females

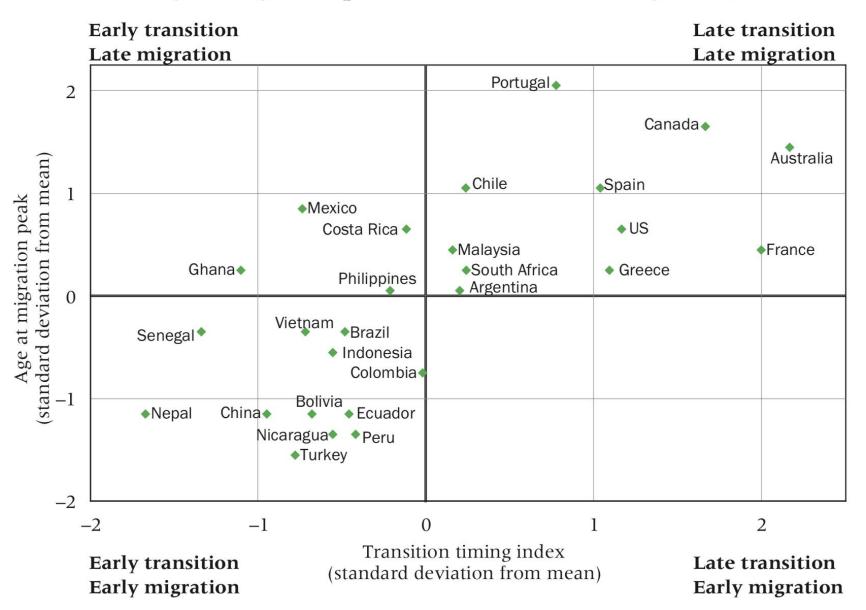


FIGURE 6A Migration intensity at peak versus transition spread index, males

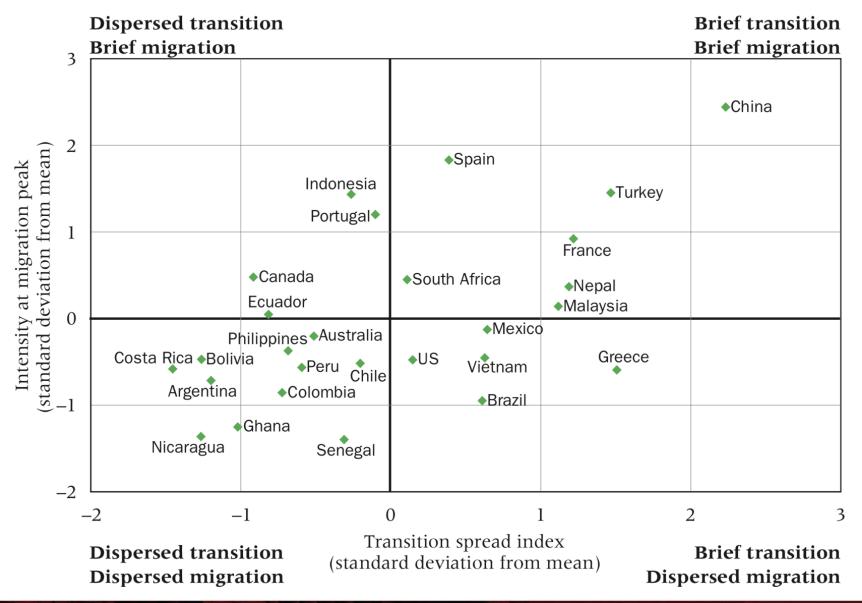
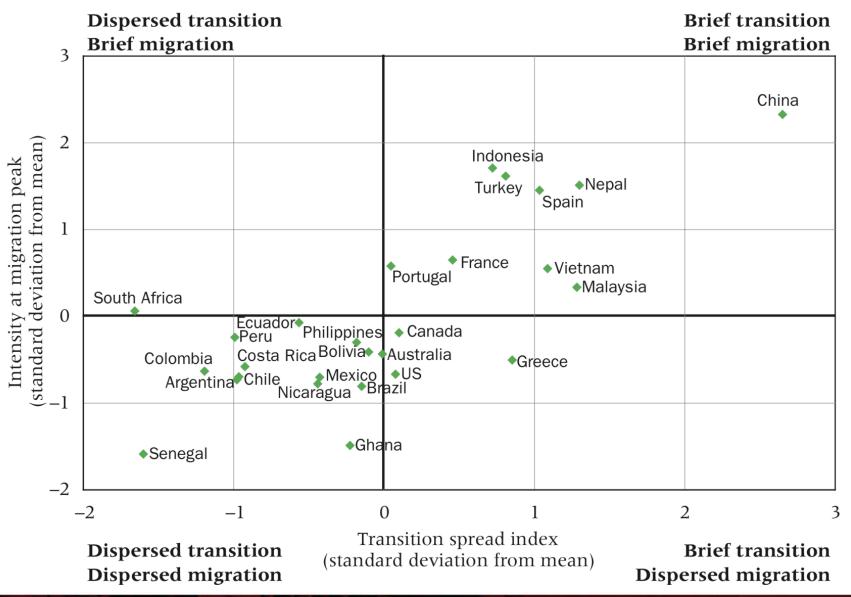


FIGURE 6B Migration intensity at peak versus transition spread index, females



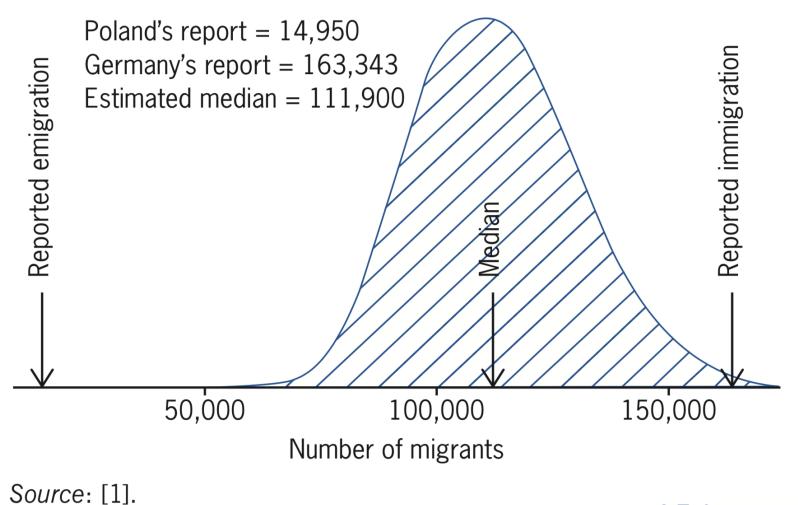


Consistent measures of migration

- Despite long-term efforts by the UN to provide clear guidelines on how to measure migration
 - Very little is known about the actual number of annual migrants throughout the world
 - Countries typically rely on their own definitions of what constitutes a migration
 - The scarce information available is contradictory



Vast difference between reported immigration and emigration data on Polish migrants to Germany, 2006



Source: Raymer 2017, p.1.

IZA

World of Labor

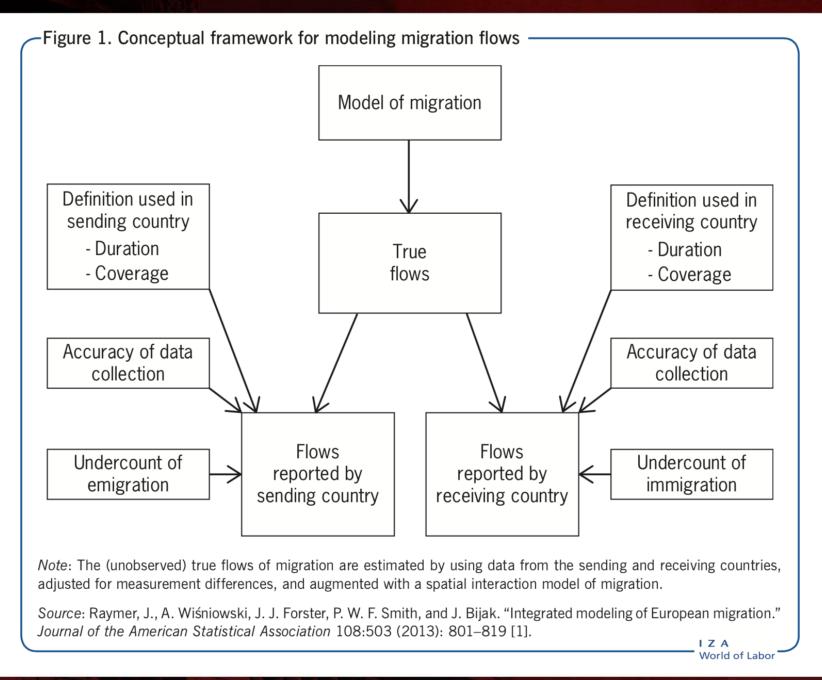
Key findings: Pros

- Migration is important for understanding population and societal changes
- Data on international migration flows are becoming increasingly available, especially in Europe
- Countries can improve their migration flow reports by sharing data with each other
- Statistical modeling can be used to harmonize and estimate missing and conflicting international migration flows
- Measures of uncertainty improve researchers' understanding of the quality of migration data and estimates



Key Findings: Cons

- International migration data are highly inconsistent and incomplete due to different measurements and collection methods
- The effects of incorrect measurement on the levels of migration are poorly understood
- Even the best available data sources likely undercount flows of immigration and emigration
- Most national statistical offices do not share information on cross-border movements
- It is unrealistic to expect countries to change their data collection practices in the next ten years



Benefits of consistent measures

- Improving the available information on global migration patterns would result in numerous and wide-ranging benefits
 - Improved population estimations/projections
 - Clearer picture of why certain migrants choose certain destinations
 - Emigration: Governments would know where their populations are moving
 - Immigration: Recruit the appropriate types of workers needed in increasingly specialized markets
 - Develop policies for providing effective services for immigrants and emigrants



Data sources

- Sources from the U.S. Census Bureau
 - Migration/geographic mobility (https://www.census.gov/topics/population/migration.html)
 - County-to-county migration flows (https://www.census.gov/topics/population/migration/guidance/county-to-county-migration-flows.html)
 - Census Flows Mapper (https://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/)
 - TIGER/Line Shapefiles (https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-line.html)
 - Demographic Analysis & Population Projection System (DAPPS) Software (https://www.census.gov/data/software/dapps.html)
- Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) (https://www.ipums.org/)
- World Migration Map (http://metrocosm.com/global-migration-map.html)
- Mexican Migration Project (MMP) (http://mmp.opr.princeton.edu/)
- Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS) (http://www.ennvih-mxfls.org/english/index.html)
- UN Population Division (https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/)

References

- Amaral EFL. 2008. "Improvements of techniques to estimate migration rates: An application with Brazilian censuses data." Population Review, 47(2): 1–24.
- Bell M, Blake M, Boyle P, Duke-Williams O, Rees P, Stillwell J, Hugo G. 2002. "Cross-national comparison of internal migration: Issues and measures." Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A, 165(3): 435–464.
- Bell M, Charles-Edwards E, Ueffing P, Stillwell J, Kupiszewski M, Kupiszewska D. 2015. "Internal migration and development: Comparing migration intensities around the world." Population and Development Review, 41(1): 33–58.
- Bell M, Charles-Edwards E. 2013. "Cross-national comparisons of internal migration: An update on global patterns and trends." United Nations Population Division, Technical Paper, 2013/1: 1–30.
- Bell M, Muhidin S. 2009. "Cross-national comparison of internal migration." Munich Personal RePEc Archive (MPRA) Paper, 19213. Queensland Center for Population Research, University of Queensland.
- Bernard A, Bell M, Charles-Edwards E. 2014. "Life-course transitions and the age profile of internal migration." Population and Development Review, 40(2): 213–239.
- Fleurence RL, Hollenbeak CS. 2007. "Rates and probabilities in economic modelling: Transformation, translation and appropriate application." Pharmacoeconomics, 25(1): 3–6.
- Raymer J. 2017. "Measuring flows of international migration: Consistent measures of migration are needed to understand patterns and impacts on labor market outcomes." IZA World of Labor, 354: 1–10.
- UNECE. 2005. "Definitions and measurement of international migration in the 2000 census round and issues for the 2010 round." Working Paper 14, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
- Wachter KW. 2014. Essential Demographic Methods. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1 (pp. 5–29), 2 (pp. 30–47).
- Weeks JR. 2015. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues. 12th edition. Boston: Cengage Learning. Chapter 7 (pp. 251–297).
- Xu-Doeve WLJ. 2006. Methods of Measuring Internal and International Migration. Netherlands: ANRC Publishing.



