1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, the National Statistical Service of Greece has noticed an increasing trend in the immigration flow. Since 1974 the number of immigrants became greater than the number of emigrants and therefore the net migration flow added a positive contribution to the growth of population. This phenomenon is of great importance, because a strong decline of the population size has been observed in some areas in Greece.

Most of the publications and papers on migration of foreign workers in Western Europe and mainly in West Germany are based on the stock data published by the Bundesanstalt für Arbeit in Nürnberg (ref. 2, 6), or on the departures and returns data collected by special migration surveys (ref. 1). The National Statistical Service of Greece has started to collect statistical flow data on migration since January 1968. Unfortunately, this collection was interrupted in September 1977, due to a decision of the Greek government. Thus, for a future estimation of the migration flow it became necessary to make some hypotheses based on the results of the investigation of the migration flow during the time period from 1968 to 1977.

The main immigration flow in Greece comes from Western Europe and mainly from West Germany. For example, in 1971, 24,709 persons immigrated (in Greece); 47.7% of this number, i.e. 11,803 persons, immigrated from West Germany. This is due, among other reasons, to the high percentage of Greek emigrants to West Germany during the last twenty years. On the other hand, the main immigration flow is directed towards the urban areas and specifically towards the greater Athens area. From those persons, who immigrated in 1971 in Greece, 15,266 or 61% settled down in an urban area, and 6,812 or 27.5% of the total immigration flow in the greater Athens area.

Has this immigration flow had an impact on the population distribution?

The main occupation of the immigrants is employment in industry. Continuing the above example of the persons who immigrated in 1971 in Greece, 9,447 or 38.2% declared to be industrial workers, 11,785 or 47.6% without occupation, and the rest 14.2% in other occupations. If we consider that those who declared to be without occupation are wives and children of economically active persons, we conclude that the main bulk of the immigration flow consists of industrial workers and members of their families. This being the case, we have to investigate all factors which influence the socio-economic life of Greek emigrant workers and specifically of those who live in West Germany, in order to provide a satisfactory explanation of the immigration flow to Greece. These are push and pull...
factors, such as the unemployment rate, the percentage of the industrial workers in respect to the economically active population, the index of industrial production and the index of hourly income of industrial workers.

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IMMIGRATION FLOW

The main purpose of this section is to examine the trends in the characteristics as well as the relation among the components of the immigration flow in Greece. The basic characteristics to be discussed are the volume, the variability, and the extension of some components of the immigration flow. We have calculated the means, standard deviations, and coefficients of variation of the variables defined for a number of subgroups of the immigration flow as follows:

a) immigrants by country of origin,
b) immigrants by geographic region and demographic areas (urban, semi-urban, rural),
c) immigrants by occupation and activity,
d) immigrants by sex,
e) immigrants by age.

In Table 2.1 we list the mean and the coefficient of variation of the immigration flow by country of origin. The table shows that the immigration flow from West Germany is 59% of the aggregate immigration flow. This percentage becomes much higher if we take into account the aggregate stock of Greek migrants who live abroad. The number of Greek emigrants amounts to 2,500,000 and from this, only 280,000 live in West Germany. This means that the main immigration flow comes from West Germany, where an excess of males compared to the females can be observed.

In the same way from Table 2.1 we conclude that the variability of the immigration flow from West Germany is higher than the variability from other European or Transoceanic countries. This is mainly due to the time path of Greek workers to and from West Germany. The Greek migrants from other European countries, with a smoother time path, have lower variability, and those from transoceanic countries with a regular time path and long history in migration, have an even lower variability. Finally, we notice that women have a higher variability than men for all countries, except for the countries of Africa. This can be explained by their special time path, which is a result of the very long distance of many of these countries from Greece and the very low percentage of the women inflow in respect to the total immigration flow. From the total immigration flow, only 1.3% are women immigrants from Africa, with a sex ratio of 46%, which in connection to the fact that there are always fewer opportunities for women to migrate to Africa, explains their lower variability.

After the brief examination of the volume and the variability of the immigration flow in Greece by country of origin, we examine the immigration flow by geographic regions and demographic areas (urban, semi-urban, rural), where the immigrants settle down after their immigration in Greece. Table 2.2 shows that the main immigration flow is directed towards the urban areas. If we take into account the distribution of the population according to the 1971 census, we conclude that the immigration flow follows the pattern of urbanization of the population in Greece. This result is