
PART 2: AGE-RELATED MIGRATION PATTERNS

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This paper explores the impact of net migration in Australia and the United Kingdom using measures of migration effectiveness computed from period-age migration data for four consecutive five-year periods. Results reported in Part 1 of this paper (Stillwell et al. 2000) suggest that while the overall effectiveness of net migration at the scale of city regions has declined over the twenty-year period in both countries, important geographical variations are evident. Part 2 considers how patterns of migration effectiveness vary by age and presents a single classification of all the city regions on the basis of age-specific effectiveness. More detailed analysis includes spatial patterns for particular age groups and net migration profiles of selected regions. Cohort effects are shown to be important for explaining changes between time periods in these regions.

With the steady decline of spatial variations in fertility and mortality within developed countries, internal migration now plays a pre-eminent role in redistributing a nation's population. Understanding the forces underpinning such redistribution is greatly facilitated by adding a temporal dimension that reveals the way that patterns of redistribution have shifted and changed over time. Equally valuable is the addition of a cross-national perspective to highlight commonalities and differences in the dynamics of movements within individual nations.

This paper compares internal migration in Australia and the United Kingdom (UK) in 1976-96 using data for four five-year periods and a matched set of city regions. One of the major problems confronted in this research is the lack of comparable migration data. In Australia, the data originate from consecutive censuses and are available in the form of period-cohort migration flows whereas the UK data are register-based and are in the form of period-age movements. The conceptual differences between the two types of data necessitated the construction of a harmonized database that has enabled the same age, period and cohort classifications to be used for both countries. Details of the data sources and the procedures for harmonizing the database are given in Bell et al. (1999).

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The systems of spatial units selected (represented as cartograms in Figure 1) enable us to compare regions with similar functions in the two countries and also to identify where there are no equivalents. Both Australia and the UK contain metropolitan core regions, metropolitan rest regions, nearby non-metropolitan regions and regions with attractive coast and countryside not far from metropolitan cores. The UK metropolitan rest regions consist of older industrial towns, whereas those in Australia are mainly made up of suburban municipalities. Australia contains far (or interior) regions, without close parallels in the UK, which are dominated by farming and mineral industries and suffer from inaccessibility to metropolitan centres. Large areas of Australia are classified as remote (the outback), with no equivalents in the UK. The UK has two ‘residual’ regions (Scotland...